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THE TIMES WEEKEND

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# THE TIMES

No. 65,061

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 16 1994

Cédras vows death not surrender

## Haiti defiant as Clinton is set to invade

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

THE American invasion of Haiti appeared imminent and inevitable last night after General Raoul Cédras, Haiti's military leader, declared he would rather die than surrender power and leave his country.

General Cédras, rejecting a last-ditch offer by Washington of a comfortable life in exile if he agreed to make way for Jean-Bertrand Aristide, Haiti's ousted president, said: "I would rather die, and if I die in the next few hours or the next few days that would be better than leaving my country in dishonour and leaving my children with a dishonourable name."

"I'm not interested in any buy-out. I'm not interested in any comfortable life in exile. I'm very interested in the future of Haiti, the future of democratic institutions."

As the countdown to invasion accelerated, President Clinton was due to address the nation from the Oval Office and administration officials predicted the armed intervention would happen as soon as Tuesday.

Earlier in the day Mr Clinton summoned his top military and national security advisers to the White House and he curtained a scheduled trip to California on Sunday and Monday. He will now return on Sunday night.

Warren Christopher, the Secretary of State, briefed the Organisation of American States, and today US officials will brief other nations making token contributions to the military intervention.

The Pentagon completed its



Cédras: "not interested in a comfortable life in exile"

final preparations by calling up 1,700 reservists with specialist skills to support the formidable naval armada of 18 warships and 14 giant transport ships fast assembling just off the Haitian coast.

The USS Mount Whitney, the operation's command and control ship, left Norfolk, Virginia, yesterday, hard on the heels of two aircraft carriers with troops, an airborne division and other special forces on board. Officials said the taskforce would be virtually complete by the weekend.

By ordering a swift invasion Mr Clinton will pre-empt almost certain congressional votes against using force. Aides described Mr Clinton yesterday as "resolute, focused, steady" and determined to proceed.

Dominican armed forces have been put on maximum alert to prepare for the invasion. They will arrest and repatriate any Haitians attempting to flee the country across the Dominican Republic's border.

About 16,000 Dominican troops and 88 foreign "observers" are already on the border to enforce the economic embargo of Haiti.

Yesterday Boutros Boutros Ghali, Secretary-General of the United Nations, confirmed that any intervention in Haiti would be in accord with UN Security Council decisions, and would be along the lines of that taken in Rwanda and Somalia. "When a decision will be taken concerning an intervention in Haiti, I can just tell you that this decision is in conformity with Resolution 940," he told reporters on a visit to Peking.

The UN is holding talks with at least 50 countries to seek contributions to the peacekeeping force that will replace the American-led invasion once Haiti's military commanders have been removed.

Brazil, Bolivia, France, Canada, Surinam, Russia, Nepal, the United States and some Caribbean countries have already promised to contribute peacekeeping forces. Help is also anticipated from Argentina, The Netherlands, Ireland, Peru, Ukraine, Fiji and India.

Britain, traditionally America's staunchest ally, is sending a frigate and a refuelling ship on station in the West Indies plus a dozen military instructors to back the US military effort.

Only China and Muammar Gaddafi of Libya have publicly criticised the American threat to invade.

Haitian defiance, page 12

Leading article, and

Letters, page 17



Americans wave their relatives away as the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower leaves Norfolk, Virginia, bound for Haiti

### Archbishop attacks British capitalism

BY RUTH GLEDHILL RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, condemned today the "detracting polarisation" of Britain's capitalist society, contrasting it with China's communist state.

Speaking at a religious centre in Shanghai half way through his two-week visit, he spoke of the "moral dangers of unbridled consumerism" and said the polarisation between those who want to create wealth



Carey: onslaught on unbridled consumerism

for themselves and those who want to give it to the needy was damaging Britain. "The result of such tension has hampered our ability as a society to think and pull together," he said. He was criticised by senior British politicians, who said the Chinese under communism were immeasurably worse off than the poorest in Britain. Dr Carey was also criticised for concentrating on problems in British society rather than on the injustices and Continued on page 2, col 4

### Blair warns against complacency

BY PHILIP WEBSTER AND NICHOLAS WOOD

TONY Blair warned his party against complacency and discipline yesterday amid signs of increasing Conservative disarray over how to counter the popularity of the new Labour leader.

Only hours after Michael Heseltine, the President of the Board of Trade, had fired a broadside against the "young, inexperienced and irresponsible" Mr Blair and wrongly implied that he had been a member of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, the Cabinet agreed that personal attacks on Mr Blair should not be a priority.

Instead, hard-won achievements against the harsh background of the recession are to form the core of the Tories' autumn fightback.

Mr Blair told the shadow Cabinet that it should not rely on the Tories to lose the election but it had to prove to the country that it could run the economy better. He promised to turn the tables on the Tories, exposing them as a high tax, high-spending party trying to pay for its own economic failure.

"We have a great opportunity to win the next general election but we cannot rely on the Tories to lose that election for us," Mr Blair said. Both he and Gordon Brown, the shadow

Chancellor, warned the shadow Cabinet, however, against making "random spending pledges" that had not been costed.

Mr Blair was speaking against the background of an ICM opinion poll showing a slight drop in Labour support and private surveys which revealed that the Government's deep unpopularity has not yet been matched by a switch in voter confidence to Labour.

Mr Heseltine's broadside came in an interview on the BBC Radio 4 Today programme. His remarks were the first personal salvo fired at the Labour leader by a Cabinet heavyweight and seemed

to mark an important departure in strategy. Mr Heseltine said: "Why should you believe a man who has got all the major judgments wrong in the first half of his life, when he tells you he is going to get them all right in the second half of his life?"

Challenged to list these misjudgments, Mr Heseltine said: "CND - Tony Blair was a supporter of the defence policies of the Labour party when they were way out, wildly disruptive of British national interests."

A Labour spokesman last night denied that Mr Blair had been a CND member.

Leading article, page 17

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### Yard defends trap used in Nickell case

BY MICHAEL HORSNELL

SCOTLAND Yard hit back last night at criticism of its undercover operation to trap Colin Stagg for the murder of Rachel Nickell and apologised to her family for failing to catch the killer.

Sir John Smith, the Deputy Commissioner, stepped into the controversy as lawyers suggested that Mr Stagg, who was set free on Wednesday, could collect up to £225,000 damages for false imprisonment and malicious prosecution.

Mark Stephens, the high-profile solicitor who has teamed up with Mr Stagg's defence team, said the compensation for his 13 months on remand awaiting a trial based on a discredited operation could be awarded unless police settle out of court.

Sir John said police would study closely the stinging criticism at the Old Bailey by Mr Justice Ognall who ruled that evidence from the operation

was inadmissible. But in a statement Sir John said police had done nothing improper in the operation to trap their prime suspect. He said: "I do not believe what has happened in this case puts in jeopardy the valuable work we do, in the public interest, by undercover methods."

As police examined the implications of the judge's ruling, Sir John added: "The murder of Rachel Nickell was one of the most horrific crimes the Metropolitan Police have had to investigate and I must express my sorrow to Rachel's family that we have not been able to satisfy their understandable need to see someone brought to justice."

Mr Stagg's lawyers were considering the launch of civil proceedings as he left the

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### Lloyd's names' hardship fund turns hard-nosed



Mary Archer: no longer head of committee

BY SARAH BAGNALL

THE Lloyd's hardship committee which had tried to protect "names" from bankruptcy is to be scrapped and effectively replaced by a hard-nosed debt collection department.

Dr Mary Archer is to be replaced as the head of the hardship committee but will become a member of what is termed the financial recovery committee as part of the organisation's tough new drive to recover £1.3 billion of unpaid debts. The move will

dismay many of the 14,000 names who are not paying their debts. Most names had little affection for the hardship committee in any case because it investigated their bank accounts, investments and possessions in detail and insisted that they had to live close to the breadline before they qualified for aid.

Under the new debt recovery process names still have the option of entering the hardship scheme but through the new committee. The scheme provides a married name with an annual income

of £17,600 and allows them to keep a house worth less than £150,000. To date only 76 names have joined the scheme.

Peter Middleton, Lloyd's chief executive, yesterday unveiled the new debt recovery plan. He said the unpaid debt was owed by an estimated 14,000 names, most of whom are no longer underwriting in the Lloyd's market. "Our policy is where people owe us money and are able to pay it then it is in the interest of the society as a whole that they should be made to pay it."

Mr Middleton assured names that terror tactics would not be used. "It would not be acceptable to knock down doors and frighten old people," he said.

Christopher Stockwell, chairman of an umbrella organisation for thousands of litigating names, expressed concern over the new debt collection strategy. He advised names that they should "refuse to meet the 'rottwiellers' other than in the presence of a solicitor."

Pennington, page 23

### Man guilty of £43m home loan fraud

BY SARA MCCONNELL

A BERKSHIRE businessman was yesterday convicted of a £43 million mortgage fraud after hundreds of investors lost their life savings. Roy Wharton, chairman of Castle Gate Securities and Castlegate Group Holdings, faces jail after he was convicted at Oxford Crown Court on two counts of fraudulent trading.

His conviction follows a two-year investigation by Thames Valley Police and the Serious Fraud Office. Mr Wharton had promised investors a return of 20 per cent if they invested a minimum of £250,000 in his Capital Fund Owner's Plan.

Chief Inspector Euan Read, head of the investigation, yesterday praised The Times for the articles it published which first highlighted the case and the plight of Castlegate's investors.

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Pennington, page 23



## Cabinet committee refuses to lift broadcasting ban on Sinn Fein

## Reynolds urges Major to endorse ceasefire

By Philip Webster and Nicholas Watt

ALBERT Reynolds, the Irish Prime Minister, stepped up his criticism of the British Government yesterday for refusing to endorse the IRA ceasefire. Mr Reynolds told the BBC in Hong Kong, where he is attending a trade mission, that John Major's refusal to accept the ceasefire was providing Loyalist paramilitaries with an excuse to maintain their campaign.

He said: "It has been suggested by some of their own people [the Loyalists] that because the British Government haven't made their decision it is difficult to make their decision as to the permanency of the ceasefire."

"We all have a responsibility to make a contribution to consolidating the peace process. The Irish Government have moved."

He added, however, that while he would like the British Government to move as soon as it could "that judgment and

that decision has to be taken by them and they have to bring the Unionist population with them and the British public with them as well."

However, Mr Major's cautious approach to the IRA ceasefire was praised by Conservative MPs last night after Cabinet ministers decided against any immediate gesture to Sinn Fein, such as lifting the broadcasting ban. The Cabinet accepted Mr Major's view that taking the ceasefire at face value would send the wrong signal to Unionists.

Mr Major and Mr Reynolds are reported to understand their different public positions. Their relationship is said by officials to be in good shape. The Government is moving towards easing the broadcasting restriction on Sinn Fein, with ministers such as Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland secretary, and Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, accepting that it has little practical value.

Mr Major leaves Britain on Sunday for a week-long visit to the Middle East and South Africa and no further meetings of the Cabinet committee on Northern Ireland are planned. Andrew Hunter, chairman of the committee, said the time might soon come when it was right to lift the ban, but this must be done when the Government judged it right.

Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein president, accused Mr Major of "trawling around for excuses" to avoid accepting the IRA ceasefire.

Letters, page 17



The novelist Edna O'Brien with Gerry Adams at the launch of his *Selected Writings* in Dublin yesterday. Many of Ireland's literary set turned up to greet the Sinn Fein president at the Irish Writers' Centre.

## IRA inmates ran up huge phone bill

By Alan Hamilton

PRISONERS in the special unit at Whitehall prison, Cambridgeshire, from which five convicted IRA terrorists escaped last week, were able to make unlimited phone calls around the world at taxpayers' expense, it was disclosed yesterday.

The Home Office Prison Department admitted that there had been an "abuse" of a privilege granted to inmates of the special unit at the high-security jail. The facility had been intended to allow prisoners to make one long-distance call a month to their families but prison ser-

vice sources say that the ten inmates ran up a five-figure phone bill, with calls to Australia, New Zealand and Ireland, which will have to be met from public funds.

Accusations of abuse were made on Wednesday by the BBC Television *Look East* news programme from Norwich. The Prison Department said yesterday that the abuse would not recur when the special unit reopened after the inquiry being conducted by Sir John Woodcock, a former Chief Inspector of Constabulary. Sir John's primary concern is to

discover how the escapes, who were all recaptured, came to possess two handguns, but he will also be examining allegations by the Prison Officers' Association of lax security at the prison.

Charges against three men accused of conspiring to buy sniper rifles for the IRA in the United States have been widened. But Janet Napolitano, state attorney for Arizona, said yesterday that charges against three other men, Eugene Patrick Martin, James Martin and Aidan Mole, had been dropped. Kevin Joseph Mc-

Kinley, Seamus Moley and Phillip McCuskey are each charged with five weapons violations in an alleged plot to ship 2,900 detonators from Tucson to New York and then to Northern Ireland. Mr McKinley is also charged with conspiracy.

Kevin Michael Lowe, 32, and Denise Tracey Lowe, 31, a married couple of separate addresses near Sunderland, were remanded in custody by magistrates at Chester-le-Street, Co Durham, yesterday in connection with the discovery of parts of a handgun at Durham jail.

## Major to give details of millennium cash

John Major will unveil details today of how millions of pounds of National Lottery proceeds will be distributed among projects to mark the millennium. He is expected to say that the money will not be directed only towards big projects. He will appeal to individuals and communities to come up with imaginative ideas on how the money could be spent to benefit their areas. Conservative projections suggest that the lottery could bring in about £1.6 billion a year for the five "good causes" it was set up to benefit: the arts, heritage, sport, charities and the Millennium Fund.

## Prison talks deadlock

Hopes of averting a series of 24-hour strikes by Scottish prison officers were fading last night as talks remained deadlocked. A union ballot has already agreed to begin industrial action next week over a restructuring plan that would abolish the present grades, introduce performance-related pay and create two categories of prison officers.

## Teachers' pay warning

Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary, warned teachers yesterday that a pay rise would put jobs at risk. In a submission to the teachers' review body she also dismissed calls for statutory maximum class sizes and weekly limits on teaching time. The Association of Teachers and Lecturers demanded an across-the-board 6 per cent rise yesterday.

## Genetic tomato ban

The Co-op supermarket chain is to ban products containing genetically engineered tomatoes. The decision could have serious implications for biotechnology companies eager to join what is expected to become a multi-billion-pound industry. Other stores have yet to decide their policies.

The Jurassic lizard, page 14

## Rail case man cleared

A man accused of attempting to murder a bank worker on a railway platform was cleared by an Old Bailey jury. George Cameron, 30, of Lewisham, south-east London, denied attempted murder, attempting to inflict grievous bodily harm and making a threat to kill. It was alleged that he tried to push the woman under a train at London Bridge station.

## Hunniford quits radio

Gloria Hunniford is to leave Radio 2 after 12 years to pursue a television career. Her afternoon show, one of the most popular on Radio 2, will end next Easter. She has been offered a series of celebrity interviews, to be filmed mainly in America, and some new British television projects. The programmes will be made by the BBC.

## 'Give Pill to girls of 11'

Liberal Democrats will press next week for the Pill to be made more easily available to girls as young as 11. In a move aimed at reducing unwanted pregnancies, the annual conference will be told that doctors should be free to prescribe without telling parents. The party claims that there is an urgent need for more widespread contraception.

## Stranded frigate afloat

The Royal Navy frigate *HMS Brazen*, which has been stranded on a rock off Chile for four days, has been refloated by a tug from the Chilean navy. The Type 22 frigate with more than 250 crew members on board hit a rock in the Straits of Magellan on Monday. The warship is being taken to an anchorage on the coast of Chile for repairs.

## £14,000 for Dinky cars

A set of eight pre-war Dinky cars bought for four shillings in 1935 was sold in London yesterday for £14,300. They were bought at Christie's by an anonymous Swiss collector who almost doubled the previous record for a Dinky Toy set. The models were part of the Barnes Collection, put together by Dr Roger Poulet between 1932 and 1953.

## Ferry deaths walkway banned

By Bill Frost

RAMSGATE ferry port was banned yesterday from further use of the walkway that collapsed killing six people on Wednesday.

The ban, ordered by the Health and Safety Executive, also covers the upper level structures of No 3 berth, where the accident happened. It will remain in force pending an investigation by HSE inspectors.

The 56ft-high gantry collapsed as the last passengers crossed to the *Prins Filip* early

on Wednesday morning. Thirteen passengers were catapulted onto a floating steel pontoon. Five were killed instantly and a sixth died later in hospital. The seven survivors were seriously injured.

A large metal pin was recovered from the seabed by police divers and is being examined by the HSE. The Swedish designers of the structure are also conducting an inquiry.

Reg Cooper, managing director of Port Ramsgate, said:

"Safety is paramount, as it always has been."

Among those killed was Steven Jones, 34, of Northern Moor, Manchester. Mr Jones was boarding the ferry with a friend, Neil Slinger, 30, also of Manchester, when the gangway collapsed. Mr Slinger is recovering from multiple fractures at Kent and Canterbury Hospital.

Two of the dead were Belgian men. Three others, two men and a woman, had still to be identified yesterday.

## Archbishop Carey's attack

Continued from page 1

persecution suffered by China's Christians.

His speech was delivered after a church leader in Peking was put under house arrest. Yang Yundong, 73, is pastor of one of the city's largest churches, which during the 1989 Tiananmen Square demonstrations displayed a banner reading "Christians support the students".

The arrest is important because Mr Yang is not even in the so-called underground church, whose millions of believers are harassed

because they operate outside the Communist Party's "Patriotic Church", an umbrella organisation that controls all religious practice. Dr Carey's visit is being hosted by the China Christian Council, part of the Patriotic Church. The council followed the official government line on the Tiananmen Square massacre.

All leaders of the Patriotic Churches must acknowledge the supremacy of the party and avoid any control by or links with foreign religious organisations. Some Roman Catholic clergy have spent

decades in jail for refusing to deny Vatican authority.

Patrick Nichols, Tory party deputy chairman and MP for Teignbridge, said he hoped Dr Carey's comments had been taken out of context. "I would be saddened if the head of the Anglican Communion was not able to compare the grinding poverty for ordinary people which a marxist state has produced with the affluence in our own country. The lot of the poorest people, the poorest person, in our community is immeasurably better than the life of such a person in China."

## Yard hits back over Nickell case trap

Continued from page 1

Waldorf Hotel, London, where he had stayed overnight as the guest of ITN, before moving in with friends. The unemployed handyman is said to be anxious to be reunited with his dog Brandy and to return to his council flat in Ibsley Gardens, Roehampton, south-west London.

The case against Mr Stagg, aged 31, for the murder of Miss Nickell, 23, while she walked the family dog on Wimbledon Common with her two-year-old son Alex on July 15, 1992, collapsed at the Old Bailey on Wednesday. After six days of legal argument the judge severely criticised the police operation in which an undercover woman officer posed as a confidante.

As speculation mounted that Mr Stagg was seeking £50,000 to sell his story to a newspaper, Ian Ryan, his solicitor, said that no deal had been struck.

Yesterday Sir John attempted to reassure the public that the emotional call to find Rachel's killer did not influence the investigation and that the undercover operation was only part of it. "The people who do this work are brave and professional, knowing the risks they are running on behalf of the public they serve, and have to make difficult decisions," he added. "It is our duty to seek the truth, and it is right that the legal system decides whether or not a case should then be brought to trial in the public interest."

Lyall accused, page 3  
Libby Purves, page 14  
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## Prisoner on the run pestered MP's aide

By Bill Frost

AN ESCAPED prisoner yesterday admitted plaguing Tory MP Bill Cash's personal assistant with obscene and threatening letters. His obsession forced Louise Hobkinson, a former model, to leave her job with Mr Cash and to take refuge in Italy.

Miss Hobkinson, 25, appeared wearing a bikini in a number of tabloid newspapers during last year's Conservative Party conference, shortly after she had been employed by the Euro-sceptic backbencher. She was inundated with requests from admirers for a photograph, Bow Street Magistrates' Court in central London was told.

Among those smitten was Dale Morris, 28, then serving two and a half years for burglary. After Miss Hobkinson had sent him a photograph, Morris wrote to her again before absconding from Downview open prison in Sutton, southwest London. One of the 20 letters he sent made threats against the life of Miss Hobkinson's boyfriend, a City lawyer.

After Morris's escape she became so terrified that she fled to Italy, the court was told. She had earlier reported the unwelcome attentions of her admirer to police, saying that the letters, which had not been

intercepted by the prison authorities, were both sordid and threatening.

"This ordeal is making me really paranoid. It is disrupting my whole life," she said at the time. One of her main concerns was that Morris would attack her boyfriend. Mr Cash, who had appointed her as a £12,000-a-year personal assistant at his European Foundation pressure group, said: "She is being pestered by this chap and it has become intolerable."

Miss Hobkinson met Mr Cash by chance last year when she tripped on a platform at Euston station and he helped her to her feet. After discovering that her grandmother was a Conservative activist in his Stafford constituency and that Miss Hobkinson was out of work, he offered her a job.

Chuck Nduku-Eze, for the prosecution, said that Morris's letters were initially not frightening but they became more menacing as he grew more infatuated and obsessed. Throughout her ordeal Miss Hobkinson was besieged by the press, he added. "They camped outside her house and made life impossible for her. It was widely reported in the media because of her involvement with the MP."

Morris, 28, was arrested at a house in Colliers Wood, southwest London, in April, a month after his escape.

Michael Marlow, for the defence, said: "Every single one of the letters finishes with him expressing his regret. The regime he has undergone to some extent has caused him to act in a way he should not have been behaving."

Morris, a former painter and decorator, admitted nine charges of sending obscene letters. He was fined £100 on each count, or seven days' imprisonment. "That period will be concurrent to the sentence you are now serving," the magistrate said. Morris replied: "Thank you, your honour."



Hobkinson: letters made her flee Britain



Policemen carry the body of Louise Jensen from its shallow grave, found by a local farmer near Paralimni

## Search for murdered tour guide ends with farmer's grim find

By Michael Theodorou in Nicosia and Michael Evans

THE battered and naked body of the young Danish tour guide allegedly kidnapped and murdered by three British soldiers in Cyprus was found in a shallow grave yesterday.

The body of Louise Jensen, 23, was identified by her Cypriot boyfriend, Michael Vassiliades, 21, who was with her at the time they were allegedly attacked by the three soldiers in the early hours of Tuesday morning.

Police said Miss Jensen's face was so badly disfigured that Mr Vassiliades was only able to identify her by two red roses tattooed on her body and a ring she was wearing.

The body was discovered by a farmer who saw a blackened hand protruding from the earth. The police had been searching for the missing woman for two days. A spokesman for the Cypriot police said yesterday that the three British would be



Michael Vassiliades, who identified the body of his girlfriend Louise Jensen by her two tattoos

charged with murder once the gathering of evidence had been completed.

Andreas Panayiotou, the farmer who found the body at a construction site 200 yards from Paralimni police station, said yesterday: "When I looked more closely, I saw there was a woman's arm sticking out of the earth. I also noticed a pool of dried



blood next to the grave."

The parents of Rifleman Jeff Parnell, Justin Fowler and Alan Ford have applied to the Ministry of Defence for a free military flight to Cyprus on one of the twice-weekly chartered civilian planes to be with their sons.

Ministry officials said free flights were normally provided on compassionate grounds if a soldier was ill.

"But this is an unprecedented case and we're not sure whether the parents are entitled to a free flight," one official said.

The parents have the alternative of paying £30 for a seat on a Hercules C130 transport aircraft. John and Margaret Parnell, from Oldbury in the West Midlands, heard the news that their son had been arrested in a tearful message from his fiancée, Sarah Green, 22.

Mr Parnell, 51, said the family refused to believe their son was involved. "We are absolutely devastated by this. We cannot believe Jeff would have done anything like this."

Rifleman Parnell, who is with the 1st Battalion Royal Green Jackets, had served in Cyprus last year, and was posted to the Falkland Islands in February before returning to Cyprus in July.

Mr Parnell said: "We want to fly out to Cyprus to be with him but we just can't afford it. We are hoping the Army will fly us there."

## Repercussions of Colin Stagg case

### Lyell accused of failing to quell sensational murder case reports

By Frances Gibb, legal correspondent

THE Attorney-General, Sir Nicholas Lyell, is being challenged in the High Court next week over his failure to quell mass-media coverage in high-profile cases like that of Colin Stagg.

Mr Stagg, accused of the Rachel Nickell murder, was freed on Wednesday after the case against him collapsed.

The test legal action next Friday is being brought over coverage of the trial in which the sisters Lisa and Michelle Taylor were jailed for life for the murder of Alison Shaughnessy.

Last year the Court of

Appeal quashed their convictions after the judges criticised "sensational and inaccurate" coverage of their case.

One of the reasons for the quashing of the convictions was that prejudicial reporting had deprived them of a fair trial.

The test action, which accuses Sir Nicholas of acting unlawfully in failing to take control of court proceedings in the wake of the sisters' trial, is being brought by Mark Stephens, the media lawyer.

Yesterday Mr Stephens said he believed that the case of Mr Stagg, in which the judge

ruled that prosecution evidence was inadmissible, raised similar issues and he had been in contact with Mr Stagg's solicitor, Ian Ryan.

"It seems to me this is a similar case, in that the Attorney-General failed to quell media clamour and unremitting reporting in just the same way as with the Taylor sisters," he said.

Mr Stephens is understood also to have liaised with Howard Ogden, the former solicitor for Frederick West, the builder accused of 12 murders in the Gloucester

area. Mr Stephens said: "In all these cases, the Attorney-General should act to prevent coverage and to allow a fair trial to take place."

"In the case of the Taylor sisters there was the most appalling and unremitting reporting, almost as with the O.J. Simpson case in the States."

In Canada, when there had been a series of child murders, a news blackout was effectively imposed to allow a fair trial, he added.

In the judicial review proceedings next Friday, lawyers will claim that Sir Nicholas failed to take action through contempt of court proceedings over the unsympathetic media coverage of the Taylor sisters.

This included publication of a photograph which, Mr Stephens said, gave the wrong impression.

That refusal in April 1994, and Sir Nicholas's failure to give reasons for it, was unlawful, lawyers will argue. They are seeking to have his decision quashed and reconsidered.

Police defence, page 1  
Libby Purves, page 14  
Letters, page 17

## Psychologist's role criticised

THE British Psychological Society is expected to examine the role of the forensic psychologist Paul Britton in the attempted entrapment of Colin Stagg (Andrew Pierce writes).

When Mr Stagg, 31, left the court on Wednesday he vowed to sue the police and the psychologist whose offender profile had implicated the bachelor in the murder investigation. The British Psychological Society, of which Mr Britton is a member, has a code of conduct that defines the limits of professional expertise. Anyone who strays beyond the boundary could be called before a disciplinary committee.

Members who are found guilty of miscon-

duct can be reprimanded, removed from the Register of Chartered Psychologists or expelled from the society. Mr Stagg's legal advisers are expected to lodge a formal complaint in the next few days.

A spokeswoman for the society said: "We are duty-bound to investigate any formal written complaint." A past president of the society, who did not wish to be named, said: "This case has caused such public unease, and cast the profession in such a bad light, we are honour-bound to investigate, whether there is an official complaint or not." Mr Britton, 48, the head of Trent Regional Forensic Consultancy Service, declined to comment yesterday.

## Lawyer no stranger to limelight

By Frances Gibb

MARK Stephens, who is challenging the Attorney-General over his failure to quell media coverage, is well used to the media limelight himself.

Next week's case is the latest high-profile action that Mr Stephens, 36, has taken on with a panache, bordering on bare-faced cheek, that can infuriate more discreet members of the legal profession.

He acted for James Boggs, the artist who upset the Bank of England by painting pound notes for Linda Joyce, former maid of the Princess Royal accused of stealing her royal employer's letters, and for

Arthur Scargill. He also represented the families of soldiers caught in "friendly fire" in the Gulf War and secured a verdict of unlawful killing.

His admirers see Mr Stephens as an innovative lawyer prepared to push the boundaries of the law; others say he is lucky with his cases and brazen in publicising his wins. He does undoubtedly have an empathy with underdogs and takes on all cases, from the impoverished to the unpopular and eminently lovable.

About 11 years ago he set up Stephens Innocent, where his work with artists was the core

of the practice. He had previously been legal director of ArtLaw, an advice centre for artists. "He very often didn't charge — he might just ask for a painting instead of his fees," a friend said.

More recently he had a tree house built for him and his two children in his garden at Forest Gate, east London, by a grateful road protester client in lieu of legal fees.

Caring he may be, but he does not deny his ambitions. As he told the Law Society Gazette once, he wanted to be successful: "It's very important to me."



Stephens: glib but ambitious

## Lightning victim saved by first aid

By Bill Frost

A WOMAN golfer who was struck by lightning was kept alive by a fellow player trained in first aid who massaged her heart until an ambulance crew arrived.

Lars Oernfeldt enlisted the help of another man to give Nancy Wilde mouth-to-mouth resuscitation during the 10-minute operation. He said that she stopped breathing several times.

Roy Gaskin, one of the paramedics called to the scene, said: "When we arrived and connected her to the monitor there was no sign of life. Her heart had stopped. Obviously Lars' fast work had kept her going."

Yesterday Mrs Wilde, 46, was in hospital being treated for burns and shock. She is expected to make a complete recovery.

Two friends who were playing with her at Windlesham Golf Club in Bagshot, Surrey, on Wednesday were also struck but suffered only slight burns and shock.

Danish-born Mr Oernfeldt, who has St John Ambulance training, heard their cries and ran to help from a nearby green.

"I knew it was bad because when I reached her and opened her mouth, smoke came out," he said. "She wasn't breathing and her hair was badly burnt. The cap she was wearing had been destroyed. It looked like a shotgun had been fired inside it."

"I started heart massage to try to pull her out but I lost her several times. It was very much touch and go and I knew I had to work fast."

"To start with I was doing all the work on my own, then someone came to help. I had to teach him ventilation very quickly but he seemed to learn fast."

"My main thought was to try to keep her alive until help arrived. An ambulance crew came after about 10 minutes but it seemed like an age."

A spokesman at Frimley Park Hospital, Surrey, said Mrs Wilde was in a comfortable condition. Last night her husband Michael expressed his gratitude to Mr Oernfeldt. "My wife owes her life to Lars," he said.

THE TIMES

MORE ON MONDAY

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MORE SPORT

Times Sport: 12 pages of the liveliest and most comprehensive sports reporting in British journalism from top Times writers, plus the fullest results coverage. See page 40

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# Race begins for right to put Channel 5 on air by 1996

By ALEXANDRA FREAN, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

CHANNEL 5, the next national terrestrial television station, is likely to start broadcasts in early 1996 after the Independent Television Commission announced yesterday that it was inviting applications for the licence.

Despite concerns in the industry that only 52 per cent of the population is guaranteed to receive Channel 5, there appear to be no shortage of bidders for the new station, which could take the form of a national station, a federation of local or city stations or a

mixture of both. Likely front-runners include a consortium comprising Time Warner, the US media giant, Pearson, the publishing group, and MAI, the broadcasting group that already holds two ITV licences.

Yorkshire Tynes Television, the Mirror Group, Richard Branson's Virgin Communications and the cable channel NBC have also indicated interest in bidding, probably as part of consortia.

The closing date for applications is May 1, 1995. The

licence will be awarded that autumn to the highest bidder if quality thresholds are met.

The ITC scrapped its original plans to launch a fifth terrestrial service in December 1992 after rejecting the only application.

The advertising industry welcomed yesterday's decision to issue invitations to apply for the licence. Adrian Birchall of the Institute of Practitioners in Advertising said that a city-based station would extend choice. "Many local businesses are likely to find it an

affordable way of utilising the proven power of television to build sales. Viewers are likely to respond positively to a new television service offering local programming."

Although considerable scepticism remains about the viability of the station after the Government's decision to hand about half the frequency space originally allocated to Channel 5 to new digital channels, the ITC said that it may be possible to boost Channel 5's coverage to 70 per cent of the population through releasing "spare" frequencies. Coverage could eventually reach between 80 and 95 per cent, the ITC added, if the Government gave the Channel 5 broadcaster access to digital frequencies.

Initially, however, big chunks of the country, including much of southern England, may not receive the station. Some homes will need new aerials.

A spokesman for the Time Warner/Pearson/MAI consortium, Channel 5 Broadcasting, said that it would be keen to bid if the station's coverage could exceed 52 per cent. "Channel 5 is the last big challenge in British terrestrial television before the turn of the century. It will increase choice at no cost to the viewer, boost competition in the advertising market, strengthen the British programme production base and create jobs."

## Breakfast show reprieved

ITV watchdogs yesterday lifted the threat of curtailing the ten-year licence held by the breakfast station GMTV and fining it £2 million, but said that its children's programming was still under review (Alexandra Frean writes).

The Independent Television Commission said that after scrutinising the station's output over the past six months it noticed a "demonstrable improvement" in standards, including the introduction in February of news between 6am and 7am.

The commission said the station had improved the

amount and range of children's items but it would be looking for further evidence of sustained quality.

Christopher Stoddart, the managing director of GMTV, said that the commission had recognised the quality of changes made since the beginning of the year, adding: "We shall, of course, continue to build the programme further."

GMTV, which accumulated losses of more than £10 million in its first six months, now attracts more than 40 per cent of the breakfast television audience and expects to go into profit at the end of the year.



Stoddart: "Will build programme further"



Jonathan Pryce, Fagin in the London Palladium production of Oliver, opening in December, with his two Artful Dodgers and two Oliver's yesterday

## Hackett salutes heroes of 'victory for the spirit'

FROM JOHN YOUNG IN ARNHEM

THE bells pealed in the great tower of Eusebius Church over rainswept Arnhem yesterday while inside an 800-strong Anglo-Polish-Dutch congregation remembered the battle which began 50 years ago tomorrow and ended nine days later in tragic but glorious failure.

Veterans and VIPs, widows and children, diplomats and serving soldiers joined the people of the city to pay tribute to those who died in the assault by the First Airborne Division, launched on September 17, 1944.

Beneath the towering Gothic columns trumpet, organ and the choir boys of Trinity School, Croydon, south London, greeted the arrival of Prince Willem of Orange, followed by the banners of the Parachute Regiment and others that took part in the last important battle in which the British Army was defeated.

A brief documentary, *Does It Snow In September?*, recalled the heroism of the Red Devils, who were not afraid of anything, "not even of death".

General Sir John Hackett, who commanded the 4th Parachute Brigade, in the landings, recalled how for four and a half months after escaping from hospital he had been hidden and protected by a Dutch family. He paid tribute to the civilians who did so much to help.

"We took you into our hearts and the bonds forged in those nine days have survived all the years that followed," General Hackett said. "What unites us is our recollection of what Dutch



ARNHEM 50 YEARS ON

civilians, men women and children, did in those dreadful days, days made still more dreadful by our arrival.

"What has come out of this tragedy is a friendship which will endure long after all of us have gone. It was not so much a strategic and tactical defeat as a victory for the spirit."

The choir sang and the congregation joined in the singing of "Rule Britannia", "Auld Lang Syne", "There'll Always Be An England" and "Land of Hope and Glory", with old men waving their programmes and filling the great old church with cheers.

Wim Kok, the Dutch Prime Minister, observed in his address that the failure of Operation Market Garden had in no way diminished the feelings of friendship and gratitude among his people for those who had risked everything.

September 17, 1944, was a warm sunlit September day. The last 48 hours have been cold, dark, wet and windy, and unless there is an improvement the planned parachute drop by some 700 serving troops and up to 70 veterans is at risk.

## THE TIMES COUNTDOWN £1,000

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TODAY is Day Four on your green card of our Countdown wordgame which offers you the chance to win up to £1,000 every weekday.

There are two games to play each day—the TV game, played in conjunction with Channel 4's Countdown, and The Times game—each offering a prize of £500. If a game has no winner the unclaimed prize is added to the next day's prize. To play both games you will need your weekly Countdown game card, which you will find in The Times every Tuesday. This week's game card is green.

THE TV GAME

To play, tune in to Countdown on Channel 4 at 4.30pm today and you have six chances of winning or sharing the £500 prize. In each of the six rounds where letters are drawn on TV a contestant will select nine letters. As the letters appear on screen check them against the eight letters printed for the same TV round at the top of your game card (ie, by excluding the rounds where numbers are drawn, Round 5 on TV will equate to word Round 4 on your card). If you can match all eight letters, in any one round, in any order, you have won that round and can claim a share of today's £500. NB If you have the same letter repeated in any one row on your card, it can only be crossed off if that letter appears the same number of times on that TV round.

To claim the TV prize, phone our hotline on 091-514 0665 between 5pm and 8pm, today. You must have your game card with you. If there is more than one valid claim, the prize money will be divided equally among the winners. If there are no valid claims, today's prize will be added to tomorrow's money.

THE TIMES GAME

On your Countdown game card there are five daily games. Each game consists of five rounds with nine spaces which include a combination of either five or six consonants which will vary from card to card. Printed above right is a selection of vowels.

which should be placed on to your game card in the spaces provided. Rearrange the nine letters to form five words (using as many letters as possible to form one word for each round) and write your solution in the empty boxes. Now, add up the letters. If the total equals or is greater than the target number below you can claim. If more than one person equals or breaks today's target number, the person with the highest score wins the £500 daily prize.

To claim The Times prize phone our hotline on 091-514 4777 between 2pm and 6pm today. You must have your card

THE TIMES  
Today's Vowels  
Round 1 A A E A  
Round 2 E E I  
Round 3 I O O E  
Round 4 A E U  
Round 5 I U I I  
Target Number: 36

with you. In the event of more than one valid claim, the prize will be divided equally among the winners.

For the purpose of judging, The Concise Oxford Dictionary—New Edition for the 1990s will be the sole reference, and the rules for Countdown will apply. In all matters the Editor's decision will be final.

If you copy of The Times did not contain a game card, contact your newspaper or call 071-967 0044.

Countdown game devised by Ant and Jammot

4  
CHANNEL FOUR TELEVISION  
COUNTDOWN is a registered trademark of Yorkshire Television Ltd

### COUNTDOWN PRIZEWINNERS

The £500 Day Two Times game prize was won by Mrs Anne Smith of Frodsham, Cheshire.

Mrs Smith, who is a retired cost accountant, had the following consonants on her card and by using the vowels for Day Two made the following five words.

Round 1: B D S T H (E O) — BOOSTED  
Round 2: S C P L R S (O E A) — SCALPERS  
Round 3: G H S N L (U A U) — UNUSUAL  
Round 4: D S K T N P (I I) — INSPIRIT  
Round 5: L N S D G (E I) — SLIDING

The £500 Day Two TV game prize was shared by two winners. They are: Mrs Eileen Beaven of Pudsey, Leeds and Mrs Shirley Slawers of Claverdon, Warwick.

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## Police 'honeypot' traps help cut cost of car theft by £35m

By Kevin Eason, Motoring Correspondent

POLICE are using "honeypot" cars fitted with radar transmitters to trap networks of car thieves in a move which has helped to cut the cost of car crime by £35 million in the first half of the year.

Figures released by the Association of British Insurers yesterday showed a drop of 39,000 for the first six months in the numbers of claims made by motorists for stolen vehicles or thefts from their cars.

The association said more sophisticated security systems and better detection methods by police were at least deterring thieves.

In the past few weeks, the use of radio transmitters in "lure" vehicles has seen more than £500,000 worth of cars recovered by the Metropolitan Police from as far away as South Africa.

Det Supt Michael Craik

said yesterday that 15 cars had been fitted with a TrakBak device and were parked in areas where thieves operated regularly. One raid found 13 Jaguars and Porsches in a garage while other vehicles, such as Range Rovers, had been traced to dockside and led to operations to track gangs to their ultimate destinations abroad.

The association said the cost of insurance claims from motorists fell 9 per cent to £338 million in the first six months of this year compared with £374 million in the same period of 1993. Claims settled were down 13 per cent to 248,000.

Claims from motorists almost doubled in the five years to 1993 to £738 million as joyriders and professional thieves enjoyed an orgy of theft. Motorists also paid the price with premiums that

doubled for the most vulnerable models, such as high-performance GTI-style cars.

Mark Boleat, the association's director-general, said: "This reduction is a move in the right direction. But no one can relax yet because cars are still being stolen on average at a rate of one every one and a half minutes of every day of the week."

Car crime has been the most contentious subject of the past decade in the motor industry. As cars became more desirable, they were also easy prey to thieves who could break into most models in seconds.

Manufacturers, under pressure from the insurance industry, launched multi-million-pound programmes to devise better security systems, including tougher locks and high-technology alarms and immobilisers, which prevented thieves from "hot wiring" the ignition.

Britain has become a world leader in automotive security. Companies such as Vauxhall, Ford and Rover have devoted entire departments to devising electronic locking systems which can store more than two billion codes. The components industry has come up with a range of contributions, from steering wheel locks to shatter-proof glass.

The signs are that the company car sector, which generally has newer models, has reacted more quickly to the car theft problem, according to Mr Boleat, while private motorists remain most vulnerable. While insurers paid out £239 million on claims from fleet customers last year, the bill for private motorists was £490 million.

Mr Boleat said: "There are signs that the number of private car thefts may be starting to creep up again over the last couple of months just when we thought the worst was over. Company cars tend to be newer and have all the latest equipment where private motorists lag behind."

## Joyrider, 15, burns to death after chase

By Robin Young

A BOY aged 15 burnt to death yesterday after crashing a stolen car being pursued by police. Both Dieter Shreyer and his 14-year-old passenger, who was thrown 70 yards from the car and seriously injured, had been arrested on Tuesday for taking another vehicle.

They had absconded from a children's home, where Shreyer had been sent after previous convictions for car theft.

He had been driving an L-registered Seat Toledo at nearly 100mph when it hit a wall in Plymouth. Two policemen who had pursued the stolen car in a chase that covered three miles in two minutes tried in vain to save the boy, who was trapped by his feet.

Chief Supt Bob Ball, head of

traffic for Devon and Cornwall Police, said: "They had been arrested two days ago. Both have been in trouble with police for stolen vehicles a number of times. It begs the question: why were two teenage children with social problems allowed to wander the streets of Plymouth at 4am?"

Mr Ball said the officers, driving a 140mph police Ford Sierra Cosworth, lost sight of the car and then found it, crashed and on fire.

Shreyer and his passenger, who has not been named, had been in council care at the Lancaster Gardens children's home in Plymouth. A spokesman said: "A children's home is not a secure unit. As soon as staff became aware that the boys had absconded they contacted the police."

## Revolutionary guillotine design for Cardiff opera house

## Iraqi architect beats Europe's best

By Marcus Binney

AN IRAQI woman has beaten the best of Europe's architects to win the chance to design the new Welsh Opera House in Cardiff.

Zaha Hadid, an avant-garde designer who has completed only one substantial building, has beaten an international line-up including Sir Norman Foster and leading architects from Holland, Italy, Japan, Spain and Switzerland.

Ms Hadid, whose practice is based in London, is well known in the architectural world for her designs for dramatic buildings with sharp dagger-like corners. Her new opera house, with a ground plan like the blade of a guillotine, is equally revolutionary.

She was born in Baghdad in 1950 and studied mathematics at the American University in Beirut before coming to England in the early Seventies.

She studied at the Architectural Association in London, winning the diploma prize with a project for bridging over the railway lines across the Thames into Charing Cross.

The designs of the eight finalists go on show in Cardiff in October. Yesterday Lord Davies, chairman of Welsh National Opera, said: "The design will not be built unless the people of the region are clearly for it."

There is likely to be some vocal support locally for an alternative futuristic design by the Italian Manfredo Nicoletti, who recently won the competition for the new Acropolis Museum in Athens. Its wave-like silhouette and crystalline exterior could give Cardiff Bay as powerful a landmark as the Sydney Opera House.

The brilliance of Ms Hadid's design is its break with the symmetrical block form of opera houses. It places the auditorium and foyers in a quadrangle surrounded by a "necklace of ancillary buildings". Ms Hadid says that the quadrangle form "gives natural light



Zaha Hadid, winner of the competition to design a new Welsh Opera House

and ventilation to everyone who works in the theatre". The corner towards the bay is left open to provide magnificent views from the foyers.

By a remarkable piece of conjuring she makes the fly tower, the bugbear of opera house design, disappear. It is ingeniously hidden in a long

block containing backstage, scenery stores, rehearsal rooms and car parking.

The 270 entries in the first stage of the competition were narrowed down to four, plus four architects of international repute invited to take part in a second stage. The £250,000 cost was funded by

the Cardiff Bay Development Corporation.

Construction costs are estimated at £43 million, plus fees, at 1993 prices. The project depends on an application for National Lottery funds next year.

Letters, page 17

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Man lost toe after doctor 'dithered'

A family doctor dithered for nearly six weeks as the condition of a patient's right foot deteriorated, the General Medical Council was told yesterday. Dr Sheik Saeed-Ahmad, 52, of Coventry, failed to conduct an adequate examination of Ronald Hewitt, who later needed his big toe amputated. The doctor was found guilty of serious professional misconduct, but his name was not removed from the register.

### Drugs seized

Customs officers and the Royal Navy seized a "substantial" haul of cannabis and arrested three men when they intercepted a motor yacht 150 miles off the Northumberland coast. The yacht had sailed from Morocco several days ago.

### Husband killed

An American aged 69 was killed and his 61-year-old wife injured in a crash at Copmanthorpe, near York, during their honeymoon. Police said the husband may have forgotten to drive on the left. The other driver had chest injuries.

### Smoked out

Three 100-yard strips of Bournemouth beach will be declared smoke-free zones from May next year, and many of the beach huts will be placed out of bounds to smokers. Councillors decided public reaction favoured the move.

### Military goat

Billy the goat from Whipsnade wild animal park in Bedfordshire reported for duty as the new regimental mascot of the 1st Battalion the Royal Welch Fusiliers, a tradition believed to date from 1775.

### Dog stabbed

A springer spaniel that tried to defend its owners' home against burglars died after being stabbed with a chisel. The thieves escaped from the house in Ayr with £1,000 in cash and jewellery.

£1,000  
he won each

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# Overcrowding turns mental wards into violent danger zones

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

VIOLENT assaults and sexual harassment are daily occurrences on psychiatric wards in London because of chronic overcrowding, the Royal College of Psychiatrists said yesterday.

In the latest report to highlight the crisis in mental health services in the capital, the psychiatrists say a third more patients are being treated on the wards than there are beds available, yet seriously disturbed people are still being turned away or discharged prematurely to make room for others whose needs are greater.

A survey conducted one week in June in 12 inner London NHS trusts, which serve ten of the most deprived areas in England, showed that the number of in-patients was 30 per cent higher than the number of beds. More than 200 patients were placed on other wards, in other private or NHS hospitals, or in prison. A shortage of nursing staff contributed to the explosive atmosphere on many wards.

More than 100 assaults were reported in the hospitals during the week of the survey, of which a third resulted in bruises, cuts or abrasions. There were nearly 300 incidents of verbal abuse or smashing of furniture.

"Admission wards are not places of haven but disturbed and dangerous environments for both patients and staff," the report says.

Dr Paul Lelliott, director designate of the college's research unit, said: "Beds are over-full and many patients have to be admitted to hospital many miles away from where they live. Advice is urgently needed as to what psychiatric teams are supposed to do when beds are full and when no beds are available throughout the South of England."

The college said at least 400 extra beds were required, echoing a demand made in

previous reports from the Mental Health Act Commission and the inquiry into the killing of Jonathan Zito, who was stabbed to death on a London Underground platform by a paranoid schizophrenic. It said the extra £4.4 million announced by the Health Department last week to boost the number of beds in secure units would have "little impact".

Alan Langlands, chief executive of the NHS, said it was too simplistic to say extra beds alone would solve the crisis.

Adults who develop schizophrenia show signs of maladjustment as early as the age of seven, University of Hertfordshire researchers say in the *British Medical Journal*.

Records of 2,000 children born in 1958, who were part of the National Child Development Study, show that those who developed schizophrenia as adults were more likely to be rated as maladjusted by teachers at primary school.



The steam engine *Supreme* leading Jack Wharton's funeral cortege yesterday. Mr Wharton, below left, spent 12 years restoring the engine



## Steam enthusiast's final journey

ONE of Britain's leading steam engine enthusiasts was buried yesterday after a funeral procession led by his favourite restored engine, Jack Wharton, of Eynsham, near Oxford, owned a fleet of steam engines before the Second World War and later became president of the National Traction Engine Trust.

Mr Wharton died of cancer earlier this month, aged 84. After a service at St Mary's Church, Witney, his body was taken through the streets of the town behind the engine *Supreme* to the Tower Hill cemetery. For many years Mr Wharton had taken the engine to shows and other events to raise money for cancer research.

Yesterday's procession was the last journey for *Supreme*, which will now go to the National Heritage Motor Museum in Beaulieu, Hampshire.

## Suspicious mother foils bogus care worker

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

A BOGUS social worker who demanded to examine children she said were allegedly being neglected was thwarted when the mother became suspicious.

The imposter, a woman in her thirties, walked away when the mother demanded to see her identity card. The incident, in Bristol on Wednesday, was the eighth similar case in the West Country since July.

The mother, who has not been named, has four children. Three were at school but she had a seven-month-old baby in the house with her.

Police believe that the same woman, who may have an accomplice, is responsible for all eight incidents and are warning parents to be on their guard. "The lady is very well-spoken and smartly dressed. She often says she has heard allegations of abuse against the children, and that she needs to inspect them," a spokesman said.

"We have no idea how she has selected her targets, although in each case she seems to know a little bit about the children concerned."

The woman has brown, collar-length hair in a bob style. She wears a navy-blue nurse's uniform or a dark suit with a white blouse.

## Murderers of manager 'seen near her house'

By DOMINIC KENNEDY

THE killers of the building society manager Carole Wardell may have been seen lurking close to her home shortly after her husband went out to post a letter.

The team of 25 police officers hunting the gang that murdered Mrs Wardell, 38, yesterday pieced together sightings of a Montego-type car containing several men to establish a timetable of the abduction.

Before the latest witness statement, the car had already been placed by two people as being close to the Woolwich Building Society in Nuneston at about the time it was raided.

Police have now established that the vehicle was 200 yards from Mrs Wardell's home on the evening before her body was found. The two men in the car may have watched and waited for Mr Wardell to leave his wife before they entered the house and took her hostage.

The suspects were seen at 8.15pm on Sunday, 15 minutes after her husband Gordon left home to post a letter. When he returned at 10pm after visiting a pub, Mr Wardell found his wife on the sofa with a man holding a knife to her throat. Mr Wardell was attacked and lost consciousness until he heard the postman delivering the mail on Monday morning.

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## KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE  
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

### Kasparov wins

By means of an energetic queen sacrifice against the Russian grandmaster, Aron Yusupov, world champion Garry Kasparov clinched overall victory with a round to spare in the Zurich international tournament. Meanwhile, in the second section London grandmaster Julian Hodgson won yet again to make his claim on undivided first prize unassailable.

White: Garry Kasparov  
Black: Aron Yusupov  
Zurich, September 1994

### Scotch Opening

1 e4 e5  
2 Nf3 Nc6  
3 d4 exd4  
4 Nxd4 Bc5  
5 Nc3 Qc7  
6 Qd2 Be6  
7 Nc3 Bc5  
8 Nxd4 Rf8  
9 Bc3 Bc4  
10 0-0 e6  
11 Qe5 b5  
12 Nc3 Bb6  
13 Qe6 Nf6  
14 Bb3 Bg7  
15 Qc3 Bc5  
16 Bc3 Qc5  
17 Bc2 Rf8  
18 Rd1 0-0  
19 Rcd6 cxd6

### Diagram of final position

8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1  
a b c d e f g h

20 Rd1 c5  
21 Ndb5 Bg4  
22 Qc3 Qxb2  
23 e4 Qb4  
24 Bb3 Qc4  
25 Nc3 Qd4  
26 h3 Be5  
27 e5 Qb4  
28 Qc4 Qc7  
29 Rb1 f5  
30 Qc3 Kf6  
31 Qc2 Rf8  
32 Qc3 Bc5  
33 Rb3 Ng5  
34 Rxc3 Qc7  
35 Qc2 Qc7  
36 Bb3 Black resigns.

### Tilburg play-offs

In the mass knockout tournament in Tilburg, Holland, the 73-year-old veteran, former world champion, Anatoly Karpov, played his games against grandmasters Vassily Ivanchuk, the winner of the 1991 Grand Prix in London. The two played a quick game play-off, and Karpov does. Karpov world champion Anatoly Karpov, against the former Yugoslav grandmaster Bojan Kurajica and Britain's sole representative, grandmaster Jon Speelman, against the Russian grandmaster Vladimir Tukmakov.

### World junior

With two rounds to go in the Junior World Championship in Brazil Darshan Kumaran, the British representative, is in sole lead with 8 points out of 11 ahead of a chasing pack of six players, all of whom have 7.5 points. In round eleven Kumaran beat the previous leader Miladinovic (former Yugoslavia).

Winning Move, page 40





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# SNP seeks funds and members in America

By Gillian Bowditch, Scotland Correspondent

THE Scottish National Party is to tap into the lucrative American market for political fund-raising by opening its first North American branch.

The man behind the SNP's initiative is Mark McKnight, a millionaire fourth-generation Scottish-American who was a defence attorney in the Tonya Harding ice-skating case.

Gil Paterson, the SNP's vice-convenor of administration, who has recently returned from a trip to the United States, says Mr McKnight has already signed up 30 SNP supporters in his home town of Portland, Oregon.

Assuming it is ratified by the SNP constitutional committee, a branch of about 100 strong will be formed there before the new year.

The average size of an urban SNP branch in Scotland is between 150 and 200 members but SNP rules allow branches with as few as 20 members to take account of small rural communities.

The American members will pay an annual membership fee of \$20, equivalent to the £15 fee in the United Kingdom. The SNP already has a sizeable following abroad and last year \$2,000 in unsolicited funds came from the United States.

The American members will have the same rights as Scottish members. Mr McKnight, who has a degree in political science, believes firmly that Scotland will win independence in Europe. "It is only a matter of time," he says.

"I'm keen to do whatever I can to help the cause of Scottish independence. Scots in America want to buy our right to become part of the Scottish political scene. We want to be able to opt in as citizens. In that sense we are investing in our country."

SNP members gathering in Inverness next week for the party's annual Scottish conference will hear from Mr Paterson about his successful American trip. "I was shocked at the amount of interest

which people over there show in the SNP," he said.

"There is not a romanticised, sentimental view of Scotland. They are well informed, they buy the Scottish papers. These are not Huckleberry Scots. If anything they are angry about the way Scotland is being run at present. They are aware of their Scottish roots and heritage."

They wear their Scottish badge, usually a tartan tie, with pride. They told me it symbolises honesty and integrity over there."

Mr Paterson said the initial drive in the States would be in Oregon, because the SNP has long had connections there. "It is extremely important to us that we can trust the people over there and that they can take a political brief."

The SNP, which does not disclose membership figures, is currently raising £100,000 a year over and above subscription revenue. "I suspect that we could raise that sort of sum in the United States alone," Mr Paterson says. "That is my target. I could see a time when contributions from the United States outstrip the Scottish contributions."

The SNP is anxious to distance itself from the activities of the Irish nationalist support group Noraid and Mr Paterson says the two causes are not linked in American minds.

"In the 60 years we have been in existence, the SNP has never been involved in an act of violence. We are a democratic, open constitutional party."

He added: "The other political parties spend millions on their election campaigns in Scotland. The SNP spends thousands. We have to redress that balance."

The SNP is planning to open a Canadian branch in Ottawa early next year and is looking at further branches in the United States. There have also been inquiries about branches from Australia, New Zealand and Singapore.



The road and rail bridges across the Firth of Forth as seen from above the South Queensferry bank in 1965

## New Forth bridge likely to go ahead

By Gillian Bowditch

PLANS for a second road bridge across the River Forth, which would be one of the largest engineering projects of the decade, are likely to go ahead following a report by government advisors recommending the £275 million project.

However, opponents of the plan, who include Labour MPs, Edinburgh District Council and environmental groups, are concerned that the bridge will increase rather than relieve traffic congestion in Edinburgh and will damage the environment.

They are also concerned that a new bridge could detract from the famous Forth rail bridge, which represented the pinnacle of engineering knowledge of its day. The Emperor of Brazil, the Shah of Persia and the kings of Saxony, Belgium and Sweden were at the

opening in 1890, and the bridge became known as Scotland's answer to the Eiffel Tower. Yesterday's report is the last before a decision on the project is made by Ian Lang, the Scottish Secretary, expected before the end of the year. A number of consortia are poised to bid for the contract, which would see the new bridge built immediately to the west of the existing road bridge. Mr Lang has said publicly that he favours the project.

The Scottish Office has proposed that the bridge be paid for by private funding. This is likely to mean increasing the toll on the current road bridge from 40p to £1.25, equivalent to the 2s 6d levied when the bridge opened in 1964.

Lesley Hinds, leader of Edinburgh District Council, said a second road bridge would be an "environmental disaster" for Edinburgh. "It is simply a waste of money. It does not take a genius

to work out that providing a second bridge will simply produce more traffic jams in Edinburgh." Forth Right Alliance, an opposition group, wants to see public services expanded instead.

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton, the Scottish transport minister, said the traffic had reached breaking point. "Figures for August show record levels of daily traffic, reaching 60,000 per day on no fewer than 15 days. By early next century, bridge queues are predicted to be regularly five miles long. There will be at least three hours of congestion in each direction every working day."

The bridge was designed to take 14,000 vehicles a day. Champions of a second bridge, including Forth Connect, said that at its inception the Forth rail bridge had a similar negative reception. William Morris, the artist, declared it "the supremist specimen of all ugliness."

## Grey mullet surfaces as best bargain

By Victoria James

FISH is scarcer and more expensive this week due to storms at sea, but bargains can be found with persistence. Grey mullet being the best buy. In autumn the range and condition of white fish improves and top quality cod and haddock is available in the shops. For the adventurous, squid is also plentiful.

Advertised price reductions include:

Asda: fresh rump steak, £3.48 per lb; loose mushrooms, 99p per lb; pack of four avocados, 99p; pack of 12 crumpets, 29p. Budgens: Milano salami, 89p per 1/2 lb; baking potatoes, 25p per lb; mineral water, £1.29 per 6x500ml; fresh skinless haddock fillets, £2.49 per lb; Elish dishwasher powder, £3.95 per kg.

Co-op: Kellogg's All Bran, £1.39 per 750g; Pepsi Max, £1.49 per 8x330ml; bleach, 52p per 2 l; Sun Pat peanut butter, 99p per 340g.

Gateway/Somerfield: pack of 6 kiwi fruit, 59p; Honey tangerines, 49p per lb; Australian

Shiraz Cabernet, £2.99 (75cl); pack of two white French sticks, 49p.

Harrods: Rainbow trout, £1.60 per lb; smoked salmon parcels, £3.10 per 1/2 lb.

Iceland: mature cheddar cheese, £3.98 per 2x500g; leg and tender mince, £2.99 per 2lb; strawberry gateau, 99p; pepperoni pizza, 95p (9 in).

Marks and Spencer: pack of 2 chickens and mushroom pasties, 99p; olive and pesto bread, 89p; pack of 12 caramel wafers, 89p; Chinese menu for two, £5.99.

Sainsbury's: shoulder of lamb, 99p per lb; peppered cooked ham, 69p per lb; Conference pears, 99p per lb; Smirnoff vodka, £9.49 per 70cl.

Sainsbury's: Birds Eye frozen garden peas, 99p/2lb; pack of 20 large sausage rolls, £1.29; long grain rice, £2.99/4kg; soups, 29p/425g; leeks, 65p/1lb.

Tesco: pork chops, £1.38 per lb; Italia seeded grapes, 44p per lb; iceberg lettuce, 59p; Heineken Export, £5.79 per 6x440ml; Honeydew melon, £1.19; seafood cocktail, 99p per 1/2 lb.

Waitrose: vanilla ice cream, £1.39 per 2 l; cauliflower, 99p; whole pineapple, 69p; pack of 6 jam doughnuts, 99p; Callebaut Ruby Cabernet 1992, £2.90.



Lennon sang at fete

## 'Screechy' Lennon tape sold for £78,500

By A Staff Reporter

A RECORDING of John Lennon singing at a church fete when he was 16 was sold yesterday for £78,500 to EMI, the Beatles' original recording company, and will be kept in their archives.

David Hughes, an EMI spokesman, said it would be stored with other historic items such as Captain Scott's horn gramophone retrieved from his expedition to the South Pole.

Mr Hughes said: "It is undoubtedly a historic recording. It was made on the day John Lennon met Paul McCartney — on the day The Beatles were born."

The recording was made in 1957 in Woolton, Liverpool, by Bob Molyneux, a retired policeman, who used a hand-held microphone and a heavy Grundig tape recorder, which was also included in the sale at Sotheby's along with the three-inch tape reel.

The recording, which has been in a bank vault for 30 years, features two songs, versions of Elvis Presley's "Let's Play House" and Lonnie Donegan's "Puttin' on the Style". Mr Molyneux said of the day: "John Lennon was clearly the leader of the group. I remember him dancing about and singing in a screechy-type voice."

The identities of the three other schoolboy musicians is not certain, but their permission would have to be obtained if the recording was to be released.

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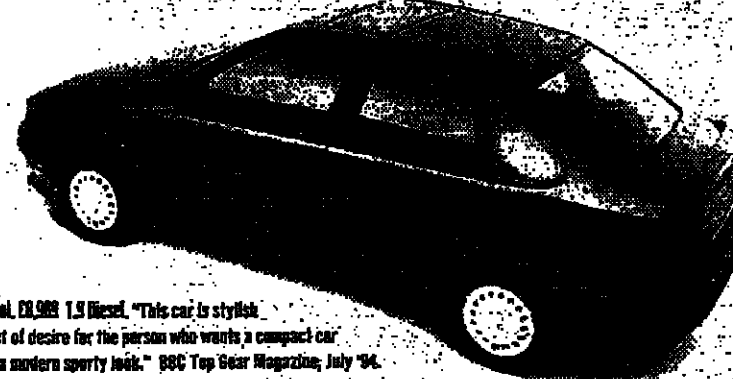
From just £3,787 for the highly equipped Ibiza Peptide for instance, including ABS stereo/cassette. The Toledo and Cordoba also boast power steering and tilt and slide sunroof.

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## Images of apartheid given a reprieve

FROM MICHAEL HAMLYN  
IN JOHANNESBURG

PRESIDENT Mandela's African National Congress delayed a decision yesterday on the fate of apartheid leaders commemorated in the corridors of South Africa's parliament, despite pressure from black MPs who say that the continued presence of statues and portraits of white leaders is an affront.

The party's 312-member parliamentary caucus decided last week that some portraits and statues should make way for heroes of the black majority, but it was decided yesterday to refer the matter back to a committee.

Whites, meanwhile, especially Afrikaners, are becoming equally anxious in case they, their language and records should be dumped in the rubbish bag of history. Their fears have been aroused by the removal of the statue of Hendrik Verwoerd, the father of grand apartheid, from a prominent plinth in Bloemfontein, the remaining of the H.F. Verwoerd building in Cape Town, and a continuing debate on the names given to dams, streets, squares, airports and new towns.



Verwoerd: statue taken off plinth

## Hurd facing Peking fury over colony deal on port

FROM DAVID WATTS AND  
JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

DOUGLAS Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, flew into Hong Kong yesterday as China renewed a stinging attack on Chris Patten, the Governor, and the colonial trading house Jardine Matheson.

Zhang Junsheng, a deputy director of the Xinhua news agency, Peking's de facto consulate in Hong Kong, accused the colony's government of favouritism in awarding the Jardine Group a lucrative contract to develop Hong Kong's ninth container terminal. The criticism bodes ill for Mr Hurd's chances of getting Sino-British negotiations on the 1997 handover of Hong Kong back on track after the recent disagreements.

The Foreign Secretary's two-day trip comes at a turbulent time for Hong Kong and follows visits to Thailand and Vietnam where he flew the flag and promoted trade. Mr Hurd will spend much of his time in Hong Kong preparing for a planned meeting with Qian Qichen, his Chinese counterpart, in New York this month. Britain was hoping that the New York meeting and a forthcoming round of Sino-British talks on the handover would succeed in healing the deep rift sparked by Mr Patten's efforts to introduce greater democracy before 1997.

Such hopes were dimmed, however, by the Chinese response to an interview with Mr Hurd in *The Times*. Mr Qian said any solution to the outstanding problems between Britain and China must be comprehensive. That is being interpreted as a signal that Peking is not prepared to move on to other matters and wants a global solution of all outstanding issues. Senior party sources have said that the forthcoming meeting be-

tween the two men in New York will be meaningless without movement from the British.

Responding to questions on his arrival, Mr Hurd said it was not a matter of offering anything to China but of the two sides looking for areas of agreement.

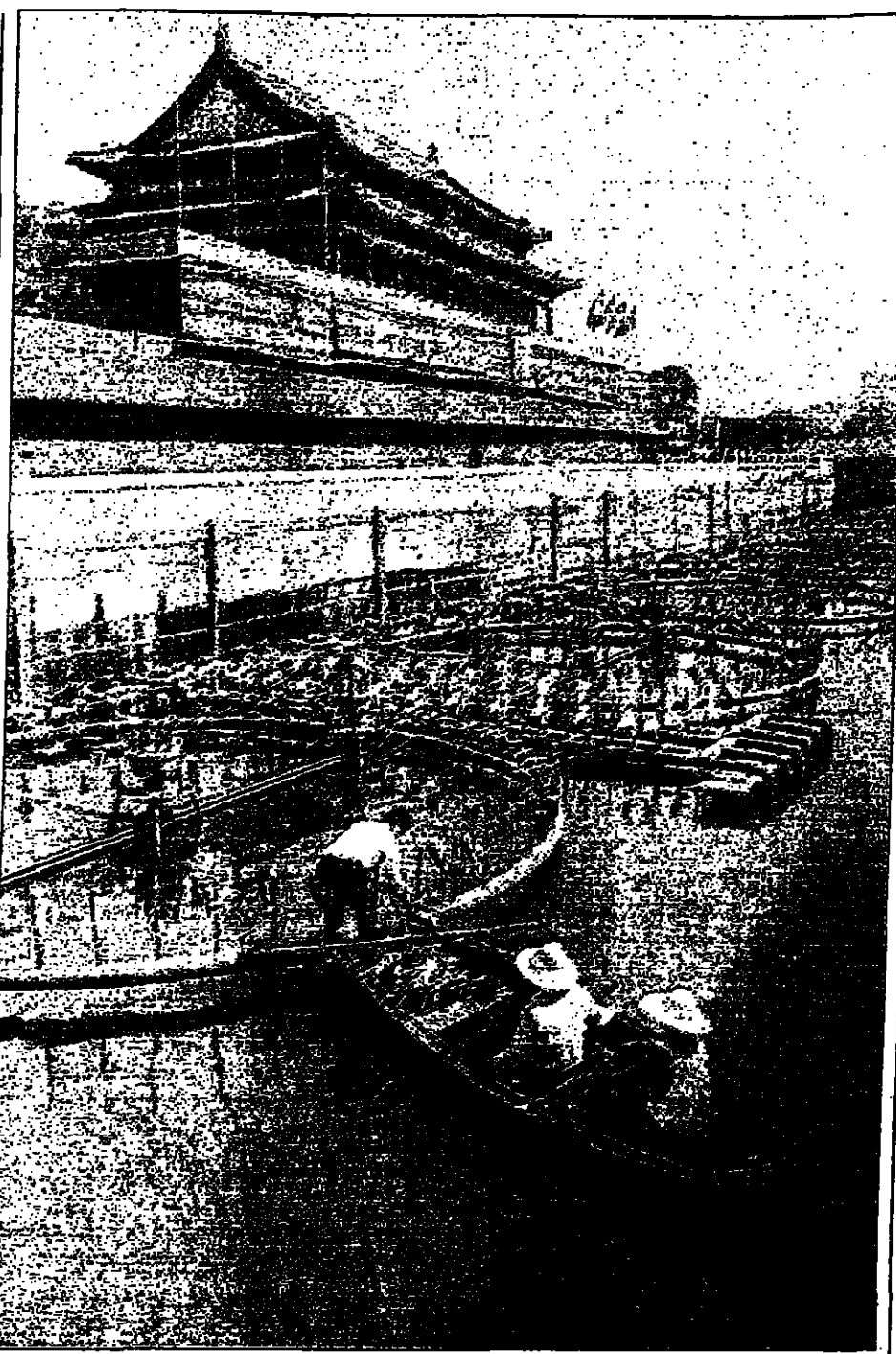
In a second blow to a visit to Hong Kong that will be watched closely both in the colony and in Peking, a senior British businessman said that unless the British Government changed tack, Britain would lose "billions of pounds of business" in China in the coming years. He accused the Government of failing to give the true picture of business lost on mainland China and in the recent dispute with Malaysia.

The Chinese have accused Mr Patten of being a thief for awarding the container port operating licence to Jardine. The port is badly needed and far behind schedule because of the stand-off between the two countries.

Xinhua said that the decision was purely a political favour in return for support for Mr Patten's programme of reform. The Governor rejects the suggestion and accuses the Chinese of causing uncertainty. Mr Hurd faces stormy meetings with Hong Kong activists this weekend over British unwillingness to establish a human rights commission and a freedom of information Act.

The former will be harder to resist than the latter since Mr Hurd spent some time on Wednesday in Hanoi discussing the issue of human rights with the Vietnamese government and agreed to set up a dialogue on the subject.

Photograph, page 20



Workers in Peking setting up fountains and floodlights in front of Tiananmen Gate to mark the 45th anniversary of the People's Republic of China on October 1

## Delhi woos Kashmir leader

FROM REUTER IN DELHI

INDIA is prepared to grant greater autonomy to Kashmir to help to end a four-year separatist rebellion in the Himalayan region that has claimed 17,000 lives.

Rajesh Pilot, the junior Home Minister, said yesterday that the question of autonomy would come up in talks

next week between Delhi and Farooq Abdullah, the former Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir state. He lost his post in 1991 when Delhi imposed emergency rule. It believes Dr Abdullah will have a key role in any talks to end the revolt and a 47-year dispute with Pakistan over who controls

Kashmir, divided between the two countries.

□ Madrid: Benazir Bhutto, the Pakistani Prime Minister, said she plans to ask the UN for a resolution on Kashmir, similar to the self-determination vote for the Western Sahara. She is on a two-day official visit to Spain. (AP)

## RAF protégé of Blériot dies aged 94

BY EVE-ANN PRENTICE, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

A British First World War pilot who was taught to fly by Louis Blériot, the first man to fly the Channel, has died in Australia. Squadron Leader Philip Laughton-Bramley, 94, collapsed during his morning constitutional walk, but gave ambulancemen his name, rank and serial number before dying of a heart attack.

Squadron Leader Laughton-Bramley — war hero, former diplomat, and acquaintance of Stanley Baldwin and British royalty — went off on his usual rounds of a northern Sydney suburb in his usual sprightly fashion, but keeled over, said Dennis Mason, another former squadron leader and family friend.

Squadron Leader Laughton-Bramley, who was born in Norwich, learned to fly just 15 years after the Wright brothers pioneered powered flight, and his flying certificate was signed by Blériot himself. The young man went on to join the Royal Naval Air Service during the First World War and became a founding member of the RAF in 1918.

He was British Vice-Consul in Aix-les-Bains, France, from 1934 to 1939, and during his first years there he came to know Baldwin, the Prime Minister, the then Prince of Wales, and the woman who was to force his abdication when he became King, Mrs Wallis Simpson, according to a spokesman for the RAF.

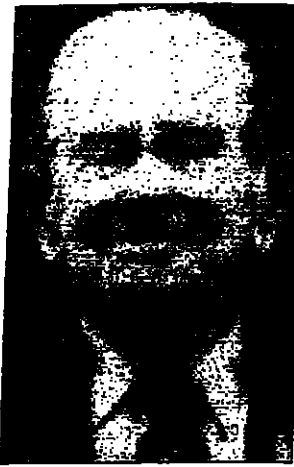
Escaping Society. In 1938, he was arrested by the Gestapo in Ludwigshafen, Germany. Squadron Leader Laughton-Bramley rejoined the RAF as an intelligence officer in Europe during World War Two. He escaped from behind enemy lines in France and Belgium, for which he was later made a Member of the British Empire and received decorations from France, Belgium and Poland.

After the bombing of Pearl Harbor, Squadron Leader Laughton-Bramley was seconded to the New Zealand Air Force. He became Staff Of-

ficer to Admiral Halsey, Commander-in-Chief of the South Pacific Fleet, and fought a radio war against Tokyo Rose with broadcasts on Radio Nouméa.

Captain Frank Dell, of the RAF Escaping Society, said yesterday that Squadron Leader Laughton-Bramley helped track down the graves of thousands of missing airmen after the Second World War. In the 1950s and 1960s he worked for a chemical company and retired to Australia in 1969. His wife, Isabel, survives him.

In April, Squadron Leader Laughton-Bramley led the



Laughton-Bramley: arrested by Gestapo

Australian division of the RAF Escaping Society — a Commonwealth group of escaped airmen, of which he was the oldest member — on the march in Sydney on Anzac Day.

□ Blériot became the first person to fly the Channel on July 25, 1909, after taking off from Sangatte near Calais and landing at Dover Castle 43 minutes later in his monoplane driven by a three-cylinder engine. He carried neither compass nor watch for the flight — against the advice of other aviators of the day — and was guided to a landing spot by a French journalist waving the French flag.

Dangerous renewed

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مكتبة من الأصل



# West must continue 'marriage guidance' role to avert return of all-out war in Bosnia

## Dangerous liaisons risk renewed Balkan tragedy

By EVE-ANN PRENTICE, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

TWO Balkan alliances — one the result of a shotgun wedding and the other a marriage of convenience — are about to decide the future of Bosnia. The first is the tie uniting Bosnia's Croats and Muslims, which America forced on the former foes and which the Croats especially resent. The second is the alliance between Russia and Serbia, who are often misrepresented as sharing deep roots of kinship but who in reality stay together because they need one another to keep what they see as a rampart post-Cold War West in check. The West's ability to play marriage guidance counselor to the Muslims and Croats is essential to preventing a return to all-out war. The danger with the Moscow-Belgrade relationship is that the partners may be driven deeper into one another's arms if the West miscalculates, leaving Russia alienated from its new mistress in Washington and Europe. The West does need Russia to stay close to Serbia, however, as its powers of persuasion over President Milosevic have been invaluable. Moscow can take the credit, for instance, for cajoling Mr Milosevic into abandoning Radovan Kara-

dzik, the Bosnian Serb leader. The single most important factor governing the future of these Balkan alliances is whether America forces through a lifting of the arms embargo against the Muslim-led Bosnian government. Hans van den Broek, the European Commissioner for External Affairs, said yesterday that lifting the embargo would ultimately result in all-out war. "In the present situation... it seems to me rather a kiss of death than of hope," he said. Diplomats and those close to the Contact Group of peace negotiators believe that Washington's desire to remove the ban has

been genuine, if misguided, but that America now recognises the perils of doing more harm than good. The problem for the Clinton Administration and Europe is to find some way to cool domestic American ardour for lifting the embargo if, as is almost certain, the Bosnian Serbs fail to

### COMMENTARY

accept the latest peace plan by October 15. One thing which is often forgotten in the day-to-day perception of the war is that fighting in Bosnia has dramatically waned, especially since the Serbs succeeded over a year ago in gaining all the land they needed to link their populations in a swath of land from the Serbian border

to their brethren in Croatia, and since the Muslims and Croats formed their shaky federation in March this year. Two years ago, tens of thousands of wretched Bosnian civilians were dying or being driven from their homes; now the United Nations estimates that only a few hundred are affected. Fighting has already begun to increase, with the Bosnian Serbs trying to secure control of three strategic positions in different parts of the country in case the embargo ends: in Bihać in the northwest, in the Konjic area southwest of Sarajevo, and near Brčko in the northeast. Konjic sits on a supply route between the Adriatic coast, Sarajevo, and Tuzla in the north, and UN strategists say controlling Konjic would enable the Serbs to strangle the Bosnian capital without breaching the heavy weapons exclusion zone and risking Nato air strikes.

All the diplomatic talk since March has concentrated on finding ways of cementing a formal peace without being seen to "reward" Serb aggression. Most in the Contact Group of Britain, France, Germany, Russia and America agreed that the search for a negotiated settlement would



Bosnian Serbs inspecting a Canadian UN lorry six miles northwest of Sarajevo before allowing it to continue to the city

be long and tortuous, but America was alone in wanting to be more proactive, hence its drive to lift the arms embargo. However, UN and diplomatic sources say that Washington and even some in the Muslim leadership have come to recognise the dangers of ending the weapons ban, recognising that if the arms are provided to the

federation there is a risk that the Croats could have a big military advantage if the alliance falls apart. "The Bosnians seem to be having a change of heart," one source said. "Nothing concrete, but a wrinkle in the eye." The UN is preparing for another winter of trying to keep a sort of peace and delivering essential aid.

"No one here really believes we are pulling out," said one UN worker in Sarajevo. "We are actively preparing for the winter and getting supplies ready." As well as probably unleashing yet more widespread fighting, an ending of the arms ban would also outrage Moscow and free President Milosevic from his

pledge to shun the Bosnian Serbs. **Soldier wounded:** A British soldier was wounded, though not seriously, when Bosnian Serbs fired 100 rounds at his Saxon armoured vehicle in the "safe area" of Gorazde yesterday. The British fired back and withdrew safely. (Reuters)

## Nureyev's Italian island retreat put up for sale

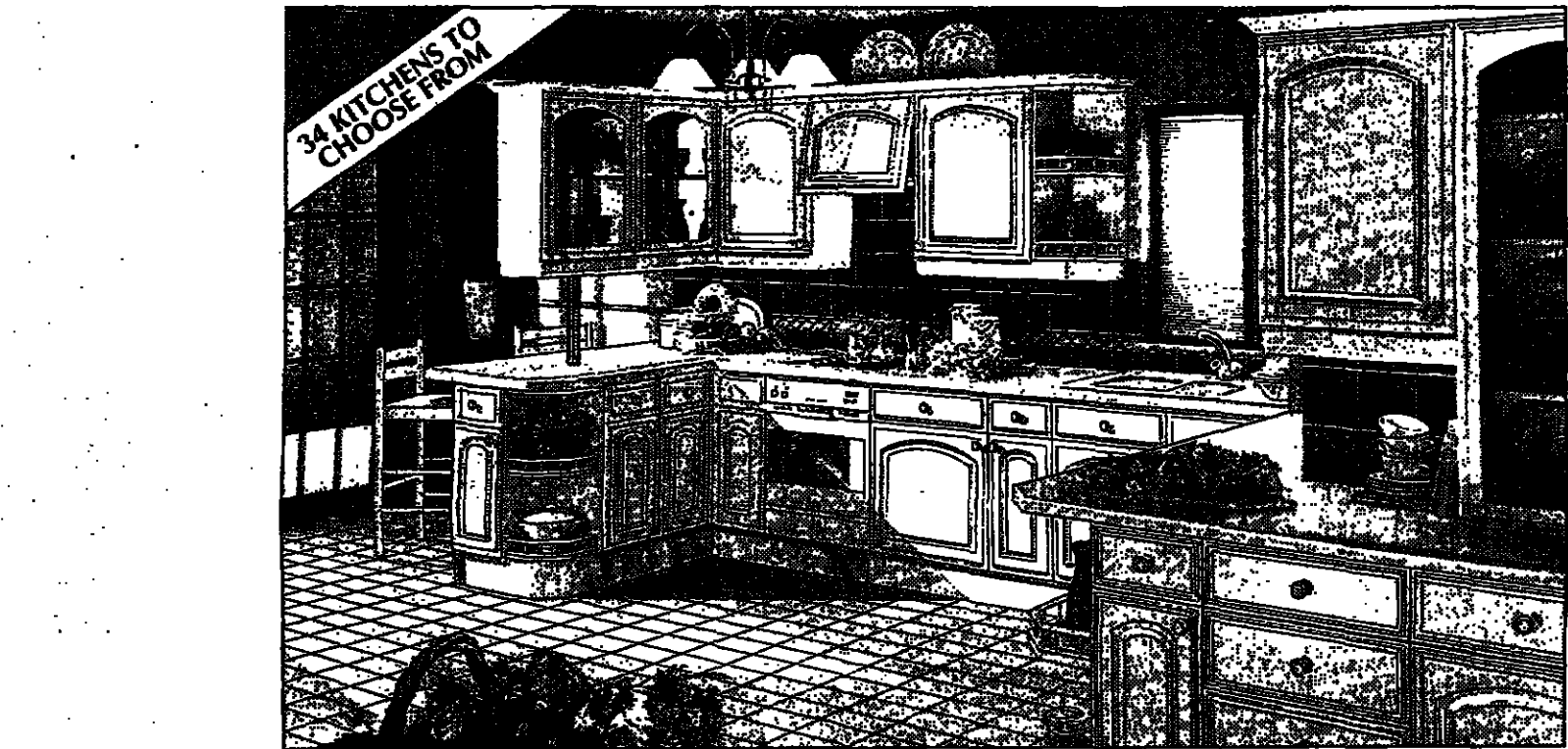
FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

AN ARCHIPELAGO, lying off the tranquil Amalfitana coast, that belonged to Rudolf Nureyev went on sale yesterday for the modest sum of 4.5 billion lire (£2 million). The three islands of the Li Galli group lie eight miles from Capri and a mile from the mainland resort of Positano. The Russian-born ballet dancer acquired them in 1989 for about 3 billion lire. They had previously belonged to Leonid Massine, the Russian dancer and choreographer. Work on restoring villas on Gallo Lungo, the main island, continued until a short time before Nureyev's death last year at the age of 54. The retreat is being sold through Christie's in Geneva, by the Ballet Promotion Foundation based in Vaduz, Liechtenstein, which Nureyev founded in 1975 and to which he left much of his fortune. "We are hoping it will be attractive to people who like islands," Jeanette Thurnherr, the head of the foundation,

said. "There are people who are interested in isolated properties, who might want to stage summer festivals there." Gallo Lungo features a lighthouse and a four-storey tower, with pine rooms, one of which Nureyev had converted into a ballet rehearsal studio. The virtuoso designed the Villa Grande building as a kind of Aladdin's cave: Turkish and Andalusian mosaics cover the walls and the rooms are decorated with kilim carpets and bronze statues from the Turkish region of Anatolia. Two other villas on the main island require considerable renovation. The other two islands, La Rotonda and La Castelluccia, in the archipelago are "just landscapes", Mrs Thurnherr said. Nureyev fell in love with the Amalfitana coast in 1984 when he received the Massine Prize for dance in Positano. After restoring the two main buildings, he spent holidays on Gallo Lungo with friends such as Franco Zeffirelli, the flamboyant film director and parliamentarian who has a villa at Positano, with a garden facing the archipelago. Vittoria Ottolenghi, the Italian ballet critic, and Giuliana Gargiulo, the Neapolitan writer, were also frequent guests. The foundation is also selling a villa on the Caribbean island of St Barts where the dancer retreated during winter. The asking price is 900 million lire. Nureyev, who defected to the West in 1961, died of an AIDS-related illness. He had also owned homes in Paris, New York, Virginia, Monte Carlo and Nice.



Nureyev loved the Amalfitana coast



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Compiled by Matthew Bryant, James Goss, Vicki Rumball and Charles Young







**Protesters in Leipzig taking to the streets in 1989 to demand unification. Many are now bitter about its results**

Brecht, East Germany's pet playwright, once described such historical flashes of righteousness. Herr Magirius has another word for it. "I am a religious man first and a politician second, so my conclusion is: it was a miracle," he said.


**Rahim Noor, Malaysia's top police official, said that Mr Ashaari had admitted during questioning that he deliberately deviated from Islamic teachings to exalt his image and that of his movement. (AP)**

This has not quite worked out, partly because of the nature of the man. One scheme was to cycle around northern Germany during the summer, pausing to talk about the state of the country to passers-by. But Herr Scharping is a fanatical cyclist. Once he mounts a two-wheeled vehicle he becomes a racer. That is what happened: along Germany's lanes this summer, one could see a small, bearded figure with glazed eyes flash past, followed by panting courtiers, press spokesmen and bodyguards. The only lasting image of Herr Scharping's summer election campaign was a picture of him finger-wrestling in a Bavarian beer tent.


pia trace their heritage to the biblical times of King Solomon. they have been fighting for full recognition from the religious authorities since their arrival in Israel. Instead, they have been involved in a number of disputes over their Jewishness and have suffered racial discrimination from the authorities. There have been clashes between them and members of the mainly white 500,000-strong Jewish community whose members have recently arrived from the former Soviet Union.



Scharping: "he looks rather too cramped"




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We press the police to solve random killings — but we must gloomily accept that justice has been done in the Rachel Nickell case

## Police who cross a seductive line

In detective stories, the trap is a time-honoured device. Sherlock Holmes lies in bed pretending to be dying, so that the fiend who sent him the poisoned box will come and gloat in front of witness Watson, jammed behind the bedhead. Miss Marple assembles the suspects for tea, and arranges to have the evil doctor remove a notional fish-bone from her throat, so that the witness will shriek out her recognition of the stranger — and he will whirl round and incriminate himself. From Wimsey to Poirot they have all been at it, from time immemorial.

But the whole point of the fictional tradition is to underline the maverick and unpolicemanlike behaviour of the private detective. When the great 'ec' has provided the confession — generally preceded by a cry of "Holmes, you devil!", the real Inspector steps in, shaking his head at the methods, to make

a flatfootedly correct arrest. When good authors portray policemen, they rarely entrap: Inspector Morse is above such trickery.

So there has been a horrid fascination, and unwanted illumination, in reading about how WPC "Lizzie James" courted Colin Stagg, the young man who lay under suspicion of killing Rachel Nickell. We have had to face the uncomfortable fact that a modern policewoman's duties may include writing astonishingly filthy letters to lonely men. It may also involve confessing in writing that you personally have happy memories of ritually murdering a woman and a baby and drinking the blood. "I cannot forget how exhilarated they made me feel," wrote

"Lizzie", dangling the promise of sex before her apparently virgin correspondent. "I can hear the sound of that knife going into that woman's throat."

The idea, of course, was that Mr Stagg would write back, along the lines of: "Gosh, what a coincidence, me too." As it happened, he didn't. Moreover, the WPC and her directing psychologist were consistently ahead of him in their fantasies. He writes about his dog Brandy and open-air sex; she rebukes him for being controlled. He picks up her cues and talks about domination, while still in-



LIBBY PURVES

cluding soft lights and "my own, home-made raspberry mousse" on the menu. She replies by misusing Her Majesty's mails with a pornographic tape about group sex and knives. And so on, to nastier and nastier letters and conversations, and the faintly Pooterish moment when she tries to be his Hindley with her tale of ritual murder, and he tries to impress her by claiming a strangling 20 years ago.

Which the police check, and find to be as big a lie as their own. He never says he killed Rachel Nickell; but they charge him all the same, and the result is this

week's fiasco at the Old Bailey, and the collapse of the first case based entirely on the discipline of "psychological profiling".

This leaves us, as employers of the police, uncertain. On the one hand, we press them very hard to solve these random killings. We know that they face horrors and have to look steadily at the worst of human nature, and we are glad we don't — except in the titillating world of fiction, where even the nastiest Ruth Rendell themes are artfully tailored to provide only as much revulsion as is compatible with eating an after-dinner mint. We appreciate that the police have a hard job to do, and hesitate

to deny them any tools they want. Before I read the Wimbledon letters, I was — along, I suspect, with many — quite happy with the idea of honeytraps.

But — and I bet this is common, too — on reading them I felt a fine really had been crossed. It is no good: I do not want policewomen heavy-breathing over infanticidal fantasies, and egging on suspects to "lose control". On a jury, I would have found it hard to convict. And, interestingly, so would the respected doyen of forensic psychologists, Professor David Canter. He finds this one a brainwash. "Using someone's own expressions and desires as evidence," he said simply, "smacks of the thought police."

Rachel Nickell's father said: "The law has been upheld, but where is the justice?" Gloomily, without pleasure, I think we have to accept that it has been done.

## Ruffled by a sex kitten

Charles Bremner on France's eternally tricky relationship with its icon Brigitte Bardot, 60 this month

With two screen goddesses reaching their sixtieth birthdays this month, it would be nice to draw a parallel moral on time and fading beauty, but Sophia Loren and Brigitte Bardot have taken so differently to senior citizenship that we are left to muse on the cruelty of the coincidence.

Loren has worn the years well, ageing with her myth. Her birthday pictures, all glamour and elegance, epitomise the modern dream that time's hand can be stayed, preserving youth and sex-appeal into a seventh decade.

In Bardot's case the lesson is much more painful. There are no Loren-style glamour shots to celebrate BB's birthday. Her only public outing of late has been to defend the wolf of the Vosges, an elusive beast that has made headlines for savaging sheep. "Just leave him alone!" she pleaded to the hunters who are out to bag the animal. But Bardot's sun-weathered and unlifted features are familiar from her frequent appearances on behalf of dogs, donkeys, whales, bulls, horses and all the other fauna to which she has devoted herself since, as she puts it, "I gave my beauty and my youth to men".

Ever jealous of her image, she sends lawyers leaping to

protect her from anything outside those tightly controlled occasions where the light is kept soft and television cameras avoid close-ups of the famous pout and the hair still piled high en chouchoute, the look that was once copied by girls around the world.

Bardot has not forgiven that world, which she once said robbed her of her own life, and the feeling in her homeland this month seems to be somewhat mutual. Just as BB transcended movies to stand as the symbol of an epoch, her ageing seems to be resented in a France obsessed these days by its lost innocence. "It's because of Bardot that women do not exist. She killed them like Parker killed the saxophone," *L'Express* magazine noted last week, as one television channel devoted a night to her films.

Bardot has long been the source of unease in France. Though she emerged in retirement in the Seventies as a national monument, with her likeness given to Marianne, the allegory of the Republic whose bust sits in every town hall, she was reviled by many in her years of greatest fame. Women spat at her in the street, priests denounced her from the pulpit, and the press chronicled with morbid delight the misfortunes of her marriages, the abandonment



Two ages of woman: Brigitte Bardot as the ultimate object of Sixties desire, and today, her features sun-weathered and unlifted. — "I gave my beauty and my youth to men"

of her baby son and her suicide attempts.

Roger Vadim, her Svengali, had barely launched her in *Et Dieu Créa la Femme* in 1956 when the intellectuals were already trying to fathom the deep trouble that *le petit pékinis somptueux* was inflicting on the French psyche. In a celebrated essay, Simone

de Beauvoir diagnosed the threat she posed as a force of nature. Catholic, straitlaced France, said an approving de Beauvoir, could not swallow such a shameless hussy. She was a *femme fatale* who was not a cinematic artifice like Gardner or Monroe, but a barefoot waif with a predatory sexual appetite.

Loren, de Beauvoir wrote in 1959, was the former type, a "full-blown woman" shaped by moguls to appeal to men. Bardot, in turn, was "the perfect specimen of the ambiguous nymph". As France knew, Juliette, the wanton gamine of *Et Dieu Créa...*, was Bardot herself, not a figment of fiction.

With the birthday, France is being reminded of those pre-Pill years, when happiness was a white convertible speed-

ing to Saint-Trop' down the Route Nationale 7. A younger generation, saturated with the vulgarities of Madonna and the sexless BB mimicry of Claudia Schiffer, is being offered a glimpse of a seemingly sweeter age. In old black and white newsreels, BB dazzles along with those other marvels of Gallic superiority, the DS Citroën, the Caravelle jet and the haughty silhouette of Charles de Gaulle. The documentaries and the re-broadcasting of some of her four dozen films are reminding the country of the way a single Frenchwoman held the world in thrall.

BB, we are reminded, achieved her initial glory thanks to America, where Vadim's film, with its nudity and love-making, was a scandalous sensation after it

flopped initially at home. No French product since then has managed to grip the American imagination in the way that Bardot did, and she never even worked in Hollywood.

As an export industry, de Beauvoir said, she had become more powerful than Renault cars. In 1960 France, an age before pop stars or sportsmen had scaled the celebrity heights, a poll showed that BB was the main topic of conversation in 47 per cent of all households.

Yet, watching those old newsreels, you can see the torment that was being inflicted on a woman whom France would not allow to grow up and lead her own life. "She only pleased us on condition that she was not allowed to

exist," *Le Figaro* remarked this month. You can see the pain, already, there in the newsreels as she faces walls of reporters' whose questions seem as archaic in 1994 as their trilby hats and big box cameras. "What do you think of free love, Miss Bardot?" they ask her in New York on her first American trip, in 1965. "I don't think when I'm making love," she replies. "Will you still be like this at 60?" another man asks the sex kitten. "I'll never be 60 because, between then and now, I'm certain science will make a lot of progress," she answers.

In a way, she was right, because the Bardot who reaches 60 this month considers herself to be entering the third decade of another life, the one she began when she

abandoned acting in 1973. "You have to understand that everything before my work with animals has nothing to do with me," she told Jeffrey Robinson, her latest biographer, earlier this year. "The woman who made those movies, that's not me."

For France this month, she is two different people. There is the BB of the cinema, brought down by the trail of broken marriages and self-indulgence, but fondly remembered as the icon of France's postwar rebirth. And there is Mme Bardot the embittered animal activist, scourge of horse-butchers, nuisance to politicians, wife of a far-right political figure and butt of jokes at the corner bistro. This is the one that *Globe* magazine described the other day as "ridiculously eternal".

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AT NEWSAGENTS - FRIDAY

## Are we ready for the Jurassic larder?

Shops may soon offer us gigantic fish or enormous cuts of meat — but would we want to eat them?

THE image of a super-race of salmon, standing fin and flipper above their ordinary brethren, has been conjured up by scientists.

By giving the fish a hyper-active gene for producing growth hormone, they report in this week's *Nature*, they have persuaded them to grow at up to 37 times the normal rate. The success — if that is how it should be regarded — raises the startling prospect of oysters as big as dinner plates in our larders, and pork chops that would feed a family.

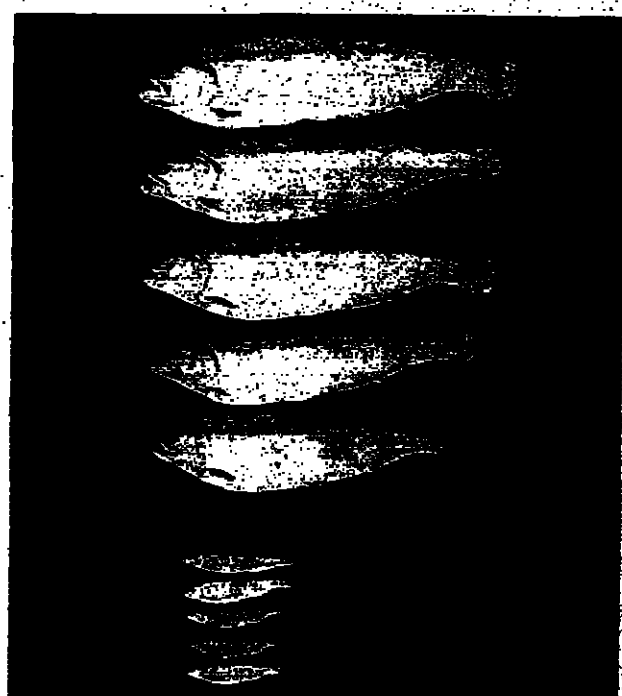
The idea isn't terribly new. More than ten years ago, *Nature* ran a picture on its cover of the supermouse, a turbocharged rodent fuelled with added growth hormone by genetic engineering. So far, however, neither butchers nor fishermen have had to get to grips with the huge creatures that were then predicted.

In the case of the salmon, the growth produced by the added gene is spectacular but short-lived. The salmon reach sexual maturity sooner, and then die. Dr Robert Devlin, one of those involved, believes that they might finish twice

as large as conventional fish. This is still significant, and the faster growth could offer advantages to fish farmers by bringing their salmon to market sooner. But success would depend on the extra gene changing only the growth rate, and no other characteristics of the fish — and that, experiments in other animals suggest, is unlikely.

Fish offer the best prospects for the technique because, unlike higher species, they grow continuously throughout life. They also have greater unexploited potential than, say, domesticated cattle or pigs. But growing faster could make the fish very fatty, or give them circulatory or other problems. As for taste, nobody yet knows: "These fish are too precious to be consumed," Dr Devlin says.

Dr John Clark, a specialist in animal genetics from the Roslin Research Station in Midlothian, says that mammals present an altogether tougher prospect than fish. He points out that the human disease called acromegaly, caused by a tumour in the pituitary gland that makes it



Salmon siblings at 14 months — the five at the top have been given the hyperactive gene to speed their growth

secrete extra doses of growth hormone, has effects that go far beyond increased size. If the condition occurs in adolescence, it does indeed produce a giant; but if it occurs in adult life, the hands, feet, snout and jaw, producing a striking change in physical appearance. "The result is not an improvement," Dr Clark re-

marks. Early experiments have alerted animal rights campaigners and given scientists pause. At the US Department of Agriculture's research station in Beltsville, Maryland, pigs given added growth hor-

mons suffered from arthritis, impotence and muscle weakness. Experiments with sheep in Australia produced animals with diabetes, abnormal kidneys and malformed bones. They lived for less than a year.

In any case, the gene alone is not enough. In any animal there are also sections of DNA that regulate the behaviour of the gene, and of these we know relatively little.

THAT the approach might work is shown by the effects of the hormone bovine somatotrophin (BST) on cows. This increases milk yields because, Dr Clark says, the hormone is released in the right dose and at the right time. But this is done not by genetic engineering within the cow, but by producing BST synthetically and giving it by injection or slow-release capsule.

All this suggests that the era of cows as big as camels is some way off, if it ever arrives at all. "The prospect of bigger or at least faster-growing fish appears more plausible, but they would still have to overcome the consumer resistance that appears likely to scupper BST milk. Ultimately it is the buyer who will decide whether any genetically-engineered food has a future."

NIGEL HAWKES



Paddy Seligman on doing time on the board of prison visitors — and why she blew the whistle at Whitemoor

# 'Escape is a worthwhile option for a talented, devious prisoner'

There is a silent army of people, unsung, unpaid and excluded from *Who's Who*, who know more than most of us about the system works. Among them is Paddy Seligman, the magistrate who broke ranks this week and revealed how her board of visitors at Whitemoor prison had repeatedly warned the Home Secretary of inadequacies that made last week's attempted breakout inevitable.

"I know at least four of the six who tried to escape," she says. "Escape is supposed to be impossible. But as we now know, it was not made impossible at Whitemoor."

Her reports make telling reading. They detail her board's concerns: "The prison privilege list is far too comprehensive"

"Inmates are allowed to accumulate far too many items of furniture" ... "We urge you to review the position regarding rights to search visitors"

Sensible comments, for a high security prison, and all the result of three years' hard as chairman of the board.

Running a board of visitors is not the same as being a prison visitor.

"Even the Queen made that mistake," Mrs Seligman says. "When she gave me my OBE, I was told that the Queen had made a mistake."

Boards of visitors are appointed by the Home Secretary, with powers to visit a prison at any time of day or night, and report on whether it is properly run, and on whether prisoners and staff are being fairly treated. They know far more about the reality of prison life than judges, who are required only to visit a prison once.

Mrs Seligman was born Penelope Anne Dunkerley. She was brought up in the shires among ponies and sent to a boarding school in Beaconsfield that taught her to embroider and to curtsy.

The Seligmans' handsome farmhouse stands near the coast of north Norfolk, where, on a black and stormy night, she had just ad-

ressed the Women's Institute, and then taken an evening class on how to master an Apple computer ("to keep up with one's grandchildren"). Despite her misleadingly gamine appearance, she is 53 and a grandmother — but then she was a child bride to an army officer at 19. "One wasn't expected to do much except go to the wives' club, perform one's duty, support one's husband. And for a while I was really quite content."

But she left that husband in Singapore, abandoning her racehorse, her swimming-pool mornings, bridge afternoons and dinner parties. She brought their daughter Deborah to London and struggled in straitened circumstances for three years until she met Anthony Seligman, a stockbroker, a scion of the Seligman and Messel clans (who are all related, six Seligman brothers having left Germany in 1840, like the Rothschilds, to found banks. Anthony is a cousin of the Euro MP Madelon Seligman, whose daughter, Olivia, produces *Desert Island Discs*).

Paddy, enjoying a comfortable existence in London with a new son, Charlie, occupied herself with fund-raising for Save the Children, and helping with Riding for the Disabled at the Royal Mews, until the children went off to boarding school. A gap yawned, that needed more stimulation than flag days. "I was the archetypal wife of my class and age. I had nothing else to do."

Never having been inside a courtroom in her life, she applied to become a JP and was interviewed by five inquisitors. "As I closed the door behind me I heard gales of laughter," she recalls. But she duly received her letter saying the Lord Chancellor was "minded" to appoint her.

While sitting in the Inner London Crown Court she visited many prisons. Wandsworth especially she found "physically and metaphorically smelly. I felt uncomfortable. I suspected that something was being concealed from us. And I wanted to know more about prisons." She heard about boards of visitors.

She had just been elected chairman of the Feltham board when the Black Monday Stock Exchange crash of 1987 gave her husband his early retirement from the City. They moved to Norfolk, where the magistrates are tougher and more penal than their London counterparts. "At my interview they asked about my attitude to drugs. Well, on the bench at Brixton we dealt with unemployed Rastas who regard ganja as part of their culture, and we'd impose £5 or £10 fines, which I suppose the general public would regard as lenient. In Norfolk, where they'd never met any Rastas, the fines were ten times that."

Carrying on her prison work, she was asked to be founder chairman of the board at Whitemoor, the new dispersal prison being built on the old marshalling yards at March in Cambridgeshire. A fifth of the prisoners are lifers. "Escape is an obvious and worthwhile option for a talented, devious prisoner who has



Paddy Seligman — from privileged child bride of an army officer in Singapore, to dealing with men incarcerated in some of the grimmest jails in Britain

applied to the Home Office and became involved first with Feltham young offenders' institute. We may rail about louts being sent on safaris, but Mrs Seligman discovered that inviting them to help with the disabled riders at the Royal Mews produced dramatic results: "It made them realise just how lucky they were."

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Carrying on her prison work, she was asked to be founder chairman of the board at Whitemoor, the new dispersal prison being built on the old marshalling yards at March in Cambridgeshire. A fifth of the prisoners are lifers. "Escape is an obvious and worthwhile option for a talented, devious prisoner who has

committed horrendous crimes and is serving 15 years — he has very little to lose and if he has a modicum of a chance to escape he will spend years planning it."

"In a dispersal prison they send you the dross, the unmanageable, the volatile and uncooperative. Assaults and even murders do take

place. As board visitors, we were allowed access to all the records — we have to know if a prisoner is the sort who will try to take a female visitor hostage. And we dealt with an increasingly sophisticated set of inmates." Her last report mentioned the "disproportionate amount of disruptive prisoners allocated to Whitemoor". But the board also listens to inmates' harmless requests for extra pairs of socks, staff complaints that the dog-handlers' coats are not waterproof enough — and, from the prisoners' special order shopping forms, requests for "rare spices, fresh salmon, Cromer crabs".

Running a prison that embraces the petty shoplifter, the intelligent fraudster and the IRA killer is an

infinitely complex business. "I am not a political animal. But one does become more liberal: we know what works and what doesn't work. People see the word privileges and they say: 'Why do these people have privileges at all? What about punishment? Why should they have anything? It costs so much to keep them, why do we have to feed them so well? I know some people think they should live on bread and water. But I've become a lot more understanding. Yes of course I've changed that way.'"

Her board's annual reports have been increasingly critical, culminating in this year's "air of indiscipline causing question as to who is in control" on C and D wings.

But she adds: "While we appear critical we know the problems of the governor: what can he do with the number of staff he has? While I'm aware of the cost of keeping people in prison, I do know that not enough money is spent."

"When I read about the breakout I went cold. At the back of my mind I knew it might happen. I felt for

everyone: the governor — whom I respect and admire — his staff, and my successor as chairman of the board, who rang to tell me the details of how it happened."

"The prison had done nothing wrong. So I sat down and wrote my letters to point out that the policies at fault were Home Office ones, which we had already complained about. This is the frustration of the board, that they try to cut through the bureaucracy and suggest improvements, but may not even get any response. We had done all we could. We have no executive function to say: 'Searching of visitors will take place.' All we can say is: 'We are concerned.'"

If she had her time again, she would be taking degrees in law and psychology. As it is, she crowds her life with committee work: the Criminal Justice Liaison Committee, the probation service and parole committees, the parish council and parochial church council; she keeps three labradors, two cats, ducks, turkeys and guinea fowl whose screeches deter burglars.

Now that Paddy Seligman has had her say about how to run Whitemoor prison, she has joined the Victim Support Agency. After doing her best for the criminal, she feels it is time to consider the victims of crime.

## THE VALERIE GROVE INTERVIEW



## The prison embraces the petty shoplifter, the fraudster and the IRA killer

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## My part in Britain's secret war

Richard Beeston on MI6's undercover Suez broadcasts



News editing: Beeston in the radio station at Limassol

During the events leading up to the Suez crisis, I worked for a clandestine Arabic radio station — funded by the British government and controlled by MI6 — whose story has never been told. A BBC decision to disclose new details of its version of the propaganda war in the Suez period has revived memories of the times, when my station, the Near East Arab Broadcasting Station, and the BBC were uneasy partners.

The Neabs (known as Sharq al Adna in Arabic), was a collection of Nissen huts in Limassol, Cyprus, with a medium-wave transmitter on the coast aimed at the Arab world. I was appointed a news editor during a dinner at the Junior Carlton with an ex-military man apparently from the Foreign Office who seemed unconcerned with my knowledge of the Arab world but more interested in whether I used the right knife and fork, and how much drink I could take. No reference was made to Secret Service involvement.

In those austere, postwar days, the radio station seemed a throwback to the intelligence world of the war. Its propaganda role was out of date, but this was not apparent to the Government. Nor to the British staff who, between brandy sours, would prepare lectures for their Arab listeners on the wisdom of Britain's Middle East policy. The ISO or so respectable, hard-working group, we were a racier bunch, and tended to scandalise our Arab colleagues.

The station broadcast in

Arabic, and because the BBC transmitted on short wave, our audience was bigger. Neabs was the most listened-to radio in the Arab world — until President Nasser blasted anti-imperialist propaganda over his Voice Of The Arabs radio.

Neabs began life as a British Forces radio station in Palestine during the war. After that it was taken over by the Special Political Activities section of the Secret Intelligence Service and MI6 contributed millions of pounds. Just before Israel's creation in 1948, the station was moved from Jerusalem to Cyprus, then a colony, to put it under British protection. The Government, whenever asked, denied any association. None of our listeners was fooled, but its hidden purpose did not affect our popularity. News bulletins were mostly objective and accurate. British Govern-

ment policy to be put across to the Arab audience was contained mostly in editorials written on Foreign Office lines which few people listened to.

A year or so before the Suez crisis, Neabs went commercial, promoting soap, aspirins and other consumer goods. But sudden profitability presented a bureaucratic problem for the Treasury. With advertising revenue pouring in, it was realised there was no authorisation for MI6 to make or spend profits, and no way of laundering the money. But as soon as the civil servants found a formula for this, the only Secret Service operation to start showing a healthy profit collapsed. And just before the Suez invasion, Britain replaced Neabs with a hard-line propaganda station designed to intimidate the Arabs

and to call for President Nasser's overthrow. The new station was named The Voice Of Britain, headed by a gun-ho psychological-warfare chief, Brigadier Bernard Fergusson, whose idea of psycho warfare was to broadcast blood-curdling threats to the Egyptians, such as "How would you like to feel the cold steel of a British bayonet in your back?"

Our liberal managing director, Ralph Poston, summoned his Arab staff to declare: "I want everybody to know that I and all the staff of Sharq al Adna disagree with this policy over Suez, which has produced this disastrous situation." All the Arabs promptly resigned. Fergusson angrily denounced Poston as a traitor, and placed him under house arrest.

Sir Donald Maitland, a future Ambassador to Libya, was brought in to run the station, and desperately began recruiting Arabic-speaking diplomats to read the news bulletins. Among those recruited to help was Patrick Wright, who later became head of the FO.

But Voice Of Britain calls for Nasser's removal had little effect, and when the Suez War ended, the Neabs was beyond revival. Fergusson went on to become Governor-General in New Zealand, the BBC took over the Neabs offices and transmitter, Poston became an Anglican vicar, later converting to Islam, and I began looking for a job.

Richard Beeston became the Middle East Correspondent of the News Chronicle and was a correspondent in Moscow and Washington for the Telegraph.

A nation attempts to come to terms with its gluttony

AS WE IN the New World prepare for "National Size Acceptance Month" next month, our thoughts turn to the fuss at last week's UN population conference. While the Vatican was being roughed up for its conservative stance, nobody sought to point out that the real holler-than-thou speeches were coming from America.

For the United States is not merely a developed nation, but an overdeveloped one to the point of being porky. With the news that one third of its inhabitants is seriously overweight (up from a quarter in the 1980s), it tops the world league for adipose tissue. Here is a country sitting smugly on its vast land mass, proudly sporting a population of 260 million and a birth rate of 2.1, ignoring the fact that if all the Kentucky Fried Chicken buckets, triple-pancake stacks and double-milk shakes are factored into the consumption figures, one third of the population is eating for two. This adds up to an extra 87 million mouths.

The recent appearance of Size Acceptance Month is an indication that Americans have not yet come to terms with their own gluttony, and we are not talking here about the minority of people with slow metabolism problems, but a national ethos which says "eat me". Intellectuals are only now exploring the subject. An entire edition of the political journal *The New Republic* was dedicated to Fat City this month. "Our behinds, seen

## Bottom line for America



KATE MUIR

on television or on tourists, have become the butt of jokes in every culture but our own," worried a professor from Cornell University.

IT IS IN middling states such as Kentucky, Arkansas, Kansas and Nebraska, that the true corpulence lies. The states that produce the finest horses, chickens, wheat and beef naturally grow the largest citizens. The citizens are not entirely to blame, for a balanced diet is high on impossible to achieve in places such as Toad Suck, Greasy Corner or Turkey Scratch in Arkansas, or Versailles in Kentucky. The choice of dining establishments in such mini-towns is almost guaranteed to include a McDonald's for half-pounders and Egg McMuffins, a Hardies for fried chicken and Southern

biscuits, a Big Boy for oleaginous all-day breakfasts, and a Taste-Freeze.

By making food so accessible and convenient, but at the same time tasting of nothing, the big restaurant chains have captured America's stomachs. Yet since a majority of Americans claim to be church-goers, they also realise that guilt goes with gluttony. Americans read articles on low cholesterol and health in their newspapers every day. Hence the outbreak of "fat-free" foods. Many theorise that with guilt assuaged by the "fat-free" label, consumers chow down for even more.

Such labels must give the National Association to Advance Fat Acceptance instant heartburn. NAAFA is sponsoring "National Size Acceptance Month" to "recognise the equality of various-sized people", and complaining that fatist jokes are the only ones which still slip under the politically correct barrier. Whatever the medical difficulties of some, what NAAFA does not explain is how 42 million Americans have gone from being normal-sized to wide-bottomed in the past ten years.

Again, for an answer to this rapaciousness — this growing lust for food, we must turn to the nation's thinkers. Joel Garreau, author of *Edge City: Life on the New Frontier*, theorises that the new-edge cities entirely eliminate the need to walk anywhere by making movement impossible except by car. For want of a walk, a nation's appetite was lost.

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# Unions must pay for the misery

Commuters should be able to sue strikers, Graham Mather says

Britain's 1980s packages of trade union law reform are one of those huge success stories which we tend to take for granted. The secret of their success was straightforward: by removing union immunities the reform measures brought trade unions firmly back within a framework of law.

This simple step not only brought clarity and simplicity, it also re-established a proper system of incentives, in which the price of unlawful interference with contracts of employment could be damages paid by trade unions for the loss caused to employers and other innocent parties.

Did this finish the job, or should we go further? Given the success of the new law the burden of proof must be on those who want to make further changes. Yet it does seem both desirable and possible to tackle an outstanding problem: strikes in essential public services.

There is a clear reason of principle why such strikes should be unlawful, even if a ballot of workers might approve them. It is because the damage caused to customers, and society generally, by such strikes cannot be made acceptable by a ballot of those with a mind to cause the damage.

In these circumstances the self-interest of workers — like rail signalworkers — should not be allowed to prevail over the interests of their fellow citizens, who cannot get to work, or of society, which suffers economic loss and quite unnecessary and avoidable inconvenience.

The reason that ministers have so far not taken action, however, is more practical. Their officials have convinced them that it would be impossible to draw up a satisfactory definition of an essential service. Public ownership could not be a test — many essential services are privatised. And how many services are essential? With imagination, there are often substitutes. The railway industry has managed to drive away freight, parcels, newspapers, much of the Royal Mail and many passengers on to alternative carriers. It may be "essential" only for commuters and others with no alternative.

I believe that the problems of definition can be overcome. Rather than attempt to draw up a list of services considered essential — which would both be contentious and quickly outdated — the legal test should simply be whether alternative services are "readily available at reasonable cost". In such industries a ballot would not make a strike lawful and unions would be exposed for damages inflicted on those they could foresee would be affected.

The risk would be theirs: and with it the responsibility to come to an informed view. The courts have much experience in applying such tests — and judicial interpretation would be necessary, anyway, when an issue became relevant in a dispute. Problems which defeat Parliamentary

draughtsmen and a cumbersome legislative process can often be quickly resolved in the ordinary courts.

In addition to the essential service issue, some employers have suggested that the ordinary pre-strike ballot procedures should be tightened, perhaps by requiring more frequent balloting.

This idea is less attractive than it might seem at first sight. First, ballots do not determine the rights and wrongs of disputes: simply whether union leaders are in touch with their members. Second, attempting to require more ballots may simply reinforce solidarity of a union membership which has a self-interest and weak claim. Third, if employers press for ballots which then seem to give legitimacy to a dispute they will simply shoot themselves in the foot. And fourth, it seems undesirable in principle to meddle any further in union internal affairs. Once society has brought them back within the ordinary law and membership is genuinely voluntary, their procedures should be matters for themselves.

Rather than address this issue, employers would be well advised to look at a particular threat to British industrial relations which has quietly become Labour Party policy. It is that for the first time in British law, employers could be compelled to recognise a particular trade union after some sort of employee ballot. The concept is confused in theory and dangerous in practice. The theory is wrong because modern systems of employee involvement — team briefings, financial participation in the company, for instance — do not rely on the antiquated single channel of the trade union. Nor should the democratic concept of the ballot be transferred in a cavalier fashion to the environment of the modern company.

Coupled with the unions' hope that at some point a pro-union government would end Britain's opt-out from the Social Chapter, the plan would have a serious impact on the system which has always in the past applied. It has always been permissive rather than prescriptive. A combination of German style "co-determination" of company decisions, together with compulsory recognition of British-style trade unions, would be a horrendous cocktail. It could put back Britain's industrial relations by 20 years. That is the issue which shrewd employers will begin to address now.

The transformation of Britain's industrial relations climate in the past decade is a precious achievement. It is almost entirely the result of clear-sighted changes to our employment law. Any further changes must be based on the same combination of clear principles and simple structures.

The author is President of the European Policy Forum and MEP for Hampshire North & Oxford.



# Demeaning the Holocaust

Do not compare cruel immigration officials with the killers of six million

Oh, why didn't I take the advice of my old boobba [meaning grandmother] and change my name to Cholmondeley-foulkes? After all, I don't have a frightfully large Jewish nose, do I? And you must admit that it would have saved me a lot of *tsuris* [meaning trouble], because Levin, however you pronounce it, is not only a Jewish name, but in the hierarchy of Judaism takes second place only to the Cohens, those *monserim* [meaning, I regret to say, bastards].

Mind you, whatever shape my nose is, it would mean nothing. Sit down, if you have a moment, and you shall hear of the great Doctor Fishbein, an American Professor, and his discovery about Jews. He must be long dead, but as his name makes clear, he too was a Jew, and he must be the most tenacious Jew in all history, not even excepting my old boobba. Under strict professional rules, he — I am not making it up — measured, with callipers, *ten thousand noses*. Half of this gigantic mountain of *schnozles* [you can surely work that one out for yourselves] were indisputably of the Hebrew persuasion; the other half fell into the Cholmondeley-foulkes sector. And when Prof Fishbein's paper was properly scrutinised and published, it was found that a large nose was no less likely to be found on the face of a ten-generation goy [meaning gentile] than on a similarly placed *phizog*. [Meaning English slang, you idiots].

Why this cry of help from my forebears? Because, some paragraphs later, you will find me, all innocently, entangled with something called The Churches Commission for Racial Justice, which has made a right mess of itself, and alas, not at all a funny mess. And where I come in, is where the very thin ice of chattering about the Holocaust looks like cracking. The Levin test of bogusity [anything with three or more words in its title taking capital letters] should have warned me, but what use would warning be?

The search for racial justice is no doubt based in a respectable organisation, and its complaints might well be perfectly just; the complainants insist that abominable behaviour is used in the deportation of people who had entered Britain illegally or, having entered Britain had overstayed their time, or that families have been torn apart with children left here and their parents thrown

out. I am quite inured to the infinite and innumerable beastlinesses coming under the Home Office umbrella (particularly now that its head is surely the worst for very many years) but to give such people a handle to say that the treatment of immigrants is fine and dandy and that the immigrants deserve what they get, is doubly idiotic.

For now let me tell you what The Churches Commission for Racial Justice did and said to make such a stir. They have published a substantial booklet called *Breaking Up the Family*, which gives names and faces to the victims of the Home Office whom I mentioned above. I have read these documents and they are indeed a disgrace to this country, and I have no doubt that there is "injustice and racism at the heart of British immigration law". So far, so good. Then: very bad indeed. In the introduction to the booklet, the Rev Dr Leslie Griffiths and the Rev Theo Samuel (a suspiciously Jewish name, but let that pass) were unfortunately let off the rein, whereupon Mr Griffiths said that "It is a modern form of crucifixion", while the Rev Samuel said that "It is a modern form of the terror Jewish families faced under the Third Reich".

I am, as you know, a man who always puts his arguments calmly, but this time I have come close to saying that the two clerics involved are a pair of dangerous clowns who, among other things, must have ruined the chance of a sympathetic hearing for the rest of the booklet. For it doesn't need a Jew, though I am one, to find enough fools to say that the immigration procedures in Britain are "the thought patterns of the Gestapo and the modern form of the terror Jewish families faced under the Third Reich".

If Mr Griffiths and Mr Samuel would sit down quietly and think for a few minutes, they might understand just what they have done: men of the cloth are familiar, surely, with ground, then kicked along the earth until he came to the pyre of burning Jewish bodies, whereupon he joined that pyre.

As for the Crucifixion... Step forward, two fools of the cloth. And two who have, at a single clap of hands, given *ozre blanche* to the immigration officials, who will from now on do anything they wish, however awful, secure as they will be behind the palisade of *Breaking Up the Family* and its obvious rejection.

But this incident tells us much more than that people can make fools of themselves; we all know that, not least because we have all, in our time, made fools of ourselves. I do not wish to make any more heavy weather of this episode, and I am quite sure that the two clerics whose faces must be — or at least should be — red were moved only by the plight of the immigrants. Nevertheless, deep in this story, something terrible stirs. Let me put a question: would anyone have used that equation — quite innocently — 30 years ago? I think not. Twenty years ago? Probably a Jew. Today? Well, before our eyes, it was used, though neither of the two culprits meant any harm. Nor did they do any; but a shiver ran down

my back. How long will it be before the Holocaust is only history? Well, can you think of any bygone happening which happened centuries ago, but has not been relegated to history? Oh, of course history is taught in schools, but nevertheless what the schools teach is history, not something of today.

How can it not be? William the Conqueror, 1066: who doesn't know that rubric? But how many of us can feel the arrow as it pierced Harold's eye? So I ask the question: how do we remember, and go on remembering until the end of time, something so different from anything else that it should be treated as something different from anything else? In today's Germany, the Holocaust is taught in all schools; but even there, through the generations, it will be one with Nineveh and Tyre. And what else? I cannot think of anything other than the Crucifixion that remains present and untouched by time. But that is a rather special case.

I do not fear the *himatics* and scoundrels who claim that the Holocaust never took place: these are certainly mad or steeped in Nazi evil (or both) though a friend from America gave me a good deal of thought when he reeled off a great number of ways that the Holocaust-denyers creatures, distill their poison. (One of the tricks they use is to put it into student newspapers — always broke and glad to have ads — as advertising laid out to look like an article.) No doubt this poison exists in Britain, and some argue that it should be a crime, as it is, of course, in Germany, and I think in France, but I don't think Britain needs such reminders.

We have come a long way from where this started — in a booklet that was published to argue that Britain's immigration procedures, together with the people who apply them, are doing wrong, even though they are doing wrong by the rules. (A Tory minister, discussing the matter, was last heard saying that he would look into the problems of the immigrants and the officials' behaviour, which means, in Toryministerspeak, that he will do nothing at all.) As I said, hopes that the nature of the work of the immigration authorities would change for the better have almost certainly been dashed by the heated language in which the booklet was couched. But who am I to reproach those who use heated language?

# Adams brought to book

Daniel Johnson reviews the IRA apologist's work

Not many politicians can write well; those who can, do so at their peril. For there is no surer window into the soul than a book, and the art of politics is dissimulation. It is strange that Hitler ever published *Mein Kampf*; stranger still that he enjoined every German household to read it. Those who did know, or should have known, what Hitler was about. Likewise the works of the Communist dictators, from Lenin to Mao: all are testaments to the mediocrity and inhumanity of their authors.

Gerry Adams published his first book, *Falls Memories*, in 1982. Over the decade, three more appeared: *The Politics of Irish Freedom*, *Cage Eleven* and *The Street and Other Stories*. Yesterday he launched the most substantial volume so far, his *Selected Writings* (Brandon, £7.95). It should be read by all who wish to take the measure of the man who is now dictating the pace of Irish politics. *Selected Writings* is a mixture of fact and fiction, of personal reminiscence and impersonal manifesto. Its tone varies from the sentimental to the sarcastic; its style from pithy, even witty, snatches of Belfast vernacular to the mirthless monotone of political polemic.

The analysis of the Troubles, and of Irish history in general, which emerges from these pages is not unfamiliar. According to Mr Adams, British rule in Ulster is illegitimate, because derived from conquest; the partition of Ireland was intended to preserve a colonial hegemony over the whole island; the reformist civil rights movement of the 1960s necessarily evolved into a revolutionary nationalist one; the collapse of Stormont in 1972 left the Unionist "statelet" with only the British Army to sustain it; the Unionists have no veto over Irish self-determination, but would enjoy the rights of an "Irish national minority" within a united Ireland.

Despite his roots in traditional Irish nationalism, Mr Adams sees his own brand of republican socialism in a global context. He claims that European integration has made an end to partition more relevant. There are several comparisons with the end of apartheid in South Africa and the Israeli-Palestinian accord. He believes that John Major needs to deal with the Unionists in the same way that De Klerk dealt with the Afrikaner right-wing.

Gerry Adams also follows Nelson Mandela in making the most of the mythology of imprisonment. Many of his stories are set in prison. Of the hunger strikes in 1981 he has this to say: "What the ten who died had done was so extraordinary that one almost needs another language in order to convey it in all its awful reality."

This glamorous life of death in the republican cause — "Adams's Book of Martyrs", as it were — serves the purpose of placing Provos in the pantheon of Irish heroes. Yet he knows that the present-day IRA is not popular, even among many Nationalists. "There are," he says, "considerable moral problems in relation to armed struggle." So he gives the impression that he shares their antipathy to terrorism: "I want to see an end to the IRA," he declares. But only after they have won.

Mr Adams wants us to see the IRA not just as brave freedom fighters, but also as very like ourselves: "The IRA is ordinary people facing up against the monster of imperial power." Potential victims are gently encouraged to identify with the terrorists rather than professional soldiers: "The Republican carrying out an armed action might be very ruthless, determined and callous, but intellectually and emotionally he or she would have difficulty in killing... IRA volunteers are actually civilians... There are no careerists in the IRA."

If his definition of the modern IRA as "an almost entirely working class organisation of political militants which enjoys popular support" sounds like Stalinist propaganda, those who oppose the IRA from the nationalist camp are treated with contempt. He is scathing about the "Peace People" of the 1970s and other mediators between the communities; and his story "A Good Confession" shows very clearly what he thinks of the Catholic Church.

In it, a newly-arrived young priest tells the elderly Mrs McCarthy that she must choose between her support for the IRA and going to her beloved chapel. The old lady replies defiantly that Christ never condemned anyone. But she is troubled and finds prayer difficult, until she meets an older priest who takes a milder line: "You're not going to give up your religion nor your politics and I don't see why you should." The Church is there to be seen but not heard.

Gerry Adams is more visible by the day. Will his book one day be seen as a classic text of Irish political thought? Is he another Burke or O'Connell, a Parnell or De Valera in the making? I think not. Nor does he make such a claim. But he is proud of his lineage, one of his grandfathers knew James Connolly and worked for De Valera. There is no question but that Mr Adams might, had he so wished, have made a career as a writer. If only he had.

# Game minister

STEALTH may not be the word that readily springs to mind when considering John Major's sizeable Armed Forces Minister, Nicholas Soames. But he was clearly fleet of foot in younger days — for he has confessed he was a game poacher.

The misdemeanours were committed when he was with the 11th Hussars from 1967 to 1970. He specialised in salmon, and worked "always by night".

Soames has long since given up the poachers' craft, of course. But

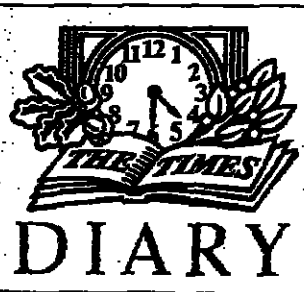
the booming minister expresses one regret now that he has turned gamekeeper. In *The Field* magazine next month, he talks of an ambition never fulfilled: to do a Macnab, after John Buchan's eponymous novel.

The book concerns three prosperous gentlemen, one of them a Cabinet minister, suffering from *tedium vitae* who decide to become poachers. Under the name of John Macnab, they write to three Scottish lairds, and threaten that Macnab will poach a prize stag or a salmon from each of their estates between specified dates. They nearly succeed. Scotland should beware any signs of *tedium* in Soames.

## Green habitat

TALK AT the Imperial War Museum's private view of war artist Peter Howson's harrowing images of Bosnia on Wednesday night tended towards the horticultural. Sir Terence Conran is to don gardening gloves for the museum.

He has been commissioned to design a wartime garden to commemorate the 50th anniversary of



VE-Day for next summer's flower show at Chelsea. "I suppose we'll have lots of vegetables, an Anderson shelter I hope, and a view of a wartime kitchen," he says from his designer potting shed. "It's early days but I'm old enough to remember my mother's wartime garden."

Not all Lloyd's names are hard-up. I am told that one bidder is prepared to offer up to £30,000 for a car registration plate coming up for auction on September 28 in Birmingham. The DVLC number-plate: LLOYDS.

## Bush babes

MAEVE Binchy, the voluptuous Irish author, was missing her biggest fan at the launch of her latest novel, *The Glass Lake*, in Piccadilly on Wednesday night.

Barbara Bush, wife of former President George, is such a devotee that she once invited Binchy to lunch at the White House where the two struck up an unlikely friendship.

"She says that the childhoods I write about in Ireland are exactly the same as the one she had, which is extraordinary really," exclaims Binchy. "I'll be sending her an advance copy of this book, but not until the American edition. They have different spellings over there, you see."

## Sick note

FEW WERE more moved on Wednesday night at the English National Opera's new production of *Tosca* than Sue Lawley, watching from the stalls. It was not so much Puccini's arias that got to her, as the state of tenor David Rendall, singing the star role of painter Mario Cavaradossi.

Rendall, poor chap, was suffering from an allergy. He coughed and gasped his way through the performance, spluttering over the stage and occasionally over his diva. "He does seem to be suffering, poor man," said Lawley. "But I feel rather sorry for Tosca as well. I hope it's not anything infectious."

P.H.S



The Prince of Wales has politely declined to unveil this moving painting (detailed above) of himself astride a rearing steed, which is believed to be the first in which he appears with his sons. *The Three Princes*, painted without royal sanction by the Canadian-born artist André Durand "in the tradition of Van Dyck, Rubens and Velázquez", will be shown in a London gallery next month. Amphion Art, which commissioned Durand on behalf of The Grand Order Of Water Rats, is bemused: "We can't see why he isn't interested. We were going to donate some of the money raised from the sale of prints to the Prince's Trust, but we don't see why now."



ADAMS  
brought  
to book  
Daniel Johnson  
Reviews the IRA  
17/18 August's work



## CLINTON'S RESOLUTION

There is more to Haiti than toppling the Generals

All evidence, from the determined words of President Clinton to the resolute presence of American warships off Haiti's coast, indicates that military intervention in that country is imminent. Yet opposition in Washington to the American involvement — which is not confined to Republican quarters — has been as tenacious as Mr Clinton's desire to rescue Haiti's beleaguered people. That opposition now is ill-conceived. The intervention is a necessary one.

It has been argued that no American interest is involved in Haiti and, that being so, no American life ought to be put at risk. This is an argument made not by mavericks but by heavyweights, such as Senator Bob Dole and Jeane Kirkpatrick, former American Ambassador to the UN. Yet there is much at stake for America, both in intervention and in a failure to intervene. The contours of national interest are often difficult to trace, but Haiti presents no such problem.

The brutishness of the illegal regime of General Raoul Cedras has provoked violations of human rights on a scale that America cannot afford to ignore, and not just for moral reasons. It has led to the flight from Haiti's shores of thousands. As the recent rash of refugees from Cuba (and the consequent lurch into panic by the Clinton Administration) has shown, Florida pays the price for maladministration in the Caribbean. Washington cannot sit idly by. Mr Clinton is right, also, to focus on the political cartography of his hemisphere. After nearly two centuries of upheaval, juntas and tin-pot dictators, virtually all the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean are ruled by elected governments. Until President Aristide was overthrown in 1991, Haiti, too, enjoyed democratic rule for the first time in its history. Now, with Cuba, it constitutes an ugly exception to the hemispheric norm.

In acting to restore to Haiti its legitimate government, the Clinton Administration is not engaged in gunboat diplomacy. America sought, and secured, the imprimatur of the UN Security Council. Resolution 940, of July

31, was a watershed in America's "politics of the backyard". Washington's scrupulous multilateral diplomacy on the Haiti question arguably spelt the end of the Monroe Doctrine. To describe the impending intervention, therefore, as an "invasion", is misleading. Critics of Resolution 940, who argue that the Security Council acted *ultra vires* in authorising "all necessary means" to oust the Cedras junta, have also failed to take account of the letter to the Security Council from Mr Aristide — the legitimate elected President of Haiti — urging it to take "swift and decisive action".

Mr Clinton has not yet won the public relations battle at home. Opinion polls suggest that the majority of Americans opposes intervention in Haiti. Had the President not delayed until last night the moment in which he explained his reasons, he would have been in a stronger position to mould public opinion to a sympathetic shape. As matters stand, he must now hold his course and trust to the therapeutic effects — in terms of his domestic political standing — of a well-executed operation in Haiti. This is added incentive for him to succeed.

In choosing not to put the matter to vote in Congress, Mr Clinton is functioning on the cusp of constitutionality. He finds support in precedent set by two of his Republican predecessors: neither Ronald Reagan nor George Bush sought congressional approval for American invasions — and the world is here used more accurately — of Grenada and Panama. Unlike those two episodes in America's history, the country will not here wage war. It will embark on police action on behalf of the international community.

As for the aftermath: it is to be hoped that exile in America, and exposure to bitter reality and common sense, will make Mr Aristide a better ruler than he was before his overthrow. He cannot succeed without a long-term commitment from Washington to the reconstruction, both economic and moral, of his beleaguered country. That would be the truest test of Mr Clinton's resolve.

## BACK TO REALITY

Labour hits the ground with a satisfying bump

There was more good news for Labour yesterday: a fall in its adjusted poll rating from 49 per cent in August to 45 now, and a shrinkage in its lead over the Conservatives from 21 to 12 per cent. Labour's honeymoon levels of support over the summer could not last. Better for Labour that they fall before the party conference than after it.

The ICM poll in *The Guardian* was reported in such a way as to present apparently the most unflattering picture possible. "End of the Blair Affair" was the headline; "The Blair bubble has burst" ran the text. Closer examination of the figures, however, shows the high August figure to have been a blip in an otherwise gentle downward trend for Labour and the Liberal Democrats, matched by a gentle upward trend for the Tories. ICM uses an unusually tough adjustment method to its raw figures, which hands enough support back to the Tories to reduce Labour's lead from 24 to 12 points.

Labour's spin doctors delight in this portrayal. Their fear was that Mr Blair's honeymoon boost would peter out while Labour delegates were massed in Blackpool. The fall in the polls would then coincide with its new leader making his first serious appearance. That would be unfortunate. Parties expect to increase support after a whole week's stage-managed propaganda on television. As it is, there is at least a chance that the froth has been blown away already, and that what support remains is reasonably solid.

Inevitably the polls have been exaggerating Labour's true support. The party's bosses claim more encouragement from private

polls, which allegedly find that the percentage of people who say they identify with Labour is rising, and has overtaken that of the Tories, which is falling. This may be more useful information than answers about a distant election decision. People can tell pollsters that they would vote Labour simply as a way of sending a message to an unpopular Government. It takes more commitment actually to identify with a party. There is a fairly close correlation between identification and votes at general elections.

The fall in the headline figures lends ammunition to Mr Blair. At yesterday's shadow cabinet meeting, he warned his colleagues against complacency, the abiding fault of his predecessor. What the new leader most needs is the lead in the polls that ICM says he now has. Any larger, and the party might think that the next election will be a walk-over; yet Mr Blair argues that Labour must modernise further before it can win. Any smaller, and leftwingers might claim that Mr Blair has misread the mood of the country; that his policies are as unpopular with voters as they are with them.

The next few weeks, though, will be critical for Mr Blair. Only half the electorate have made up their minds about him. So far they seem to have been willing to give him the benefit of the doubt. But after what must have seemed like an interminable time in the pavilion, the new leader is about to come out to bat. The cricket season may be over, but the political season is now beginning in earnest. He will not want to be out for a duck to his first ball.

## DIAMONDS AIN'T FOR EVER

Baseball fans need not despair for their lost season

The World Series has been called off for the first time. A bitter strike by the players has achieved what two world wars, the Depression and even a major earthquake failed to do. To describe this final series of games of the baseball season as the world championship sounds boastful to the rest of the world. But for Americans the loss of the climax to what promised to be a close-run season right up to the ninth innings with two out and the bases loaded is a national calamity. It is equivalent to the English losing their Cup Final or the French the Tour de France.

President Clinton, a confessed baseball fanatic, tried to salvage the season by at once sending in the federal mediation service and the Labor Department. His mediators called in vain for some statesman arbitrator such as former President Jimmy Carter. And Bud Selig, the acting Baseball Commissioner, even invoked Neville Chamberlain when he said that history was clear about what happened to appeasers.

Trade war, strikes, bribery and scandal are part of the rich tradition of baseball. But this bitter squabble over money between multimillionaires is peculiar. The average salary of the 762 baseball players in the two major leagues is \$12 million (£790,000). The owners get paid even more for home runs hit by somebody else.

But the strike is about power more than money. Paradoxically, the highly skilled workers of the players' union are fighting to retain their hard-won market freedom to offer their services to the highest bidder. The

management want to cap players' wages in order to break the overweening power of the union and to have more money to redistribute to the less successful clubs. After the cancellation of the rest of season, Mr Clinton said that his Administration was going to study the anomalous exemption of baseball from anti-trust laws. No other sport gets such protection, and the Senate anti-trust committee wants to abolish it.

The public in the bleachers blows a raspberry at both houses of fat-cats more interested in the Dow Jones than baseball statistics. To fill the gap in their summer and the television schedules, Americans have rediscovered the gentler pleasures of baseball in the minor leagues, where young men still pitch balls at nearly 100 miles an hour and strike home runs for sport not big bucks. To rescue sporting couch potatoes, autumn's optimism of the people has arrived with the football season.

Even if the cancellation of the World Series marks a turn of the tide for baseball, this need not be the end of summer for boys of all ages. There is an older game than baseball, which has been played professionally for only just over a century. Its players wear even stranger gear than the knickerbockers and tribal "sox" of baseball, and its jargon is quaint. It affords even more pedantic statistics, is played by more people over a far wider area, and lasts even longer than Rounders with ice-cold beer and brawls for grown-ups. Its name is cricket. Now that would be a true World Series.

## Collapse of the Stagg prosecution

From Mrs Elizabeth E. Witts

Sir, The outcome of the Rachel Nickell case (reports and leading article, September 15) leaves the worst possible scenario for everyone: For Ms Nickell's family, no comfort in their grief.

For the police, discredit and a heightened lack of confidence in some of the procedures.

For the judge, and our legal system, vilification by many who believe that Colin Stagg is guilty.

For Colin Stagg, no clear acquittal. For the many regular users and lovers of Wimbledon and Putney Commons, a return of doubt, fear and suspicion when on the commons.

The commons conservators have done much to improve the security of commons use in the last two years, such as employing an extra mounted keeper, extending our radio network to include our maintenance staff, now clearly identifiable with yellow waistcoats over-printed WPC (Wimbledon and Putney Commons Conservators), and opening up sight-lines on our main footpaths.

I hope this will reassure the public and that they will not be driven away again from this lovely place, because of this whole sad case.

Yours faithfully,

ELIZABETH E. WITTS

(Chairman), Wimbledon and Putney Commons Conservators,

Manor Cottage,

Wimbledon Common, SW19,

September 15.

## US and Haiti

From Mr Humphry Berkeley

Sir, What conceivable excuse can the United States government have for invading Haiti (report, September 15)? It poses no threat to the US, Central and Latin America or anywhere else.

Admittedly, it is run by a military clique which ousted its elected government. The same is true of Nigeria. Again, the elected head of state has been ousted and a military government is in power. Does anybody suggest that Nigeria should be invaded — or, for that matter, the People's Republic of China which has, probably, the most tyrannical government in the world?

It is perhaps worth remembering that the United States government of the day strongly opposed the Anglo-French invasion of Egypt, and indeed brought it to a complete close, even though the excuse that Eden gave for the invasion was that the Egyptian king and legitimate government had been overthrown and that Colonel Nasser was a dictator who might turn out to be as evil as Hitler.

I hope that this country and all members of the European Community will oppose the invasion of Haiti in every peaceful way they can.

Yours faithfully,

HUMPHRY BERKELEY,

Three Pages Yard, Chiswick, W4,

September 15.

## IRA ceasefire

From Mr Jim O'Hara

Sir, Conor Cruise O'Brien's tirade against the IRA's ceasefire and its implications and his fatalistic chronology for Northern Ireland ("Major must thwart IRA secret plot for civil war", September 12) reflect the highly individualistic and idiosyncratic views of someone sadly trying to create a Domesday scenario out of days of hope.

Whereas recent developments have been welcomed in all European countries, in America, in Britain, and by the majority of opinion in all of Ireland, though clearly much more warily by Northern Unionists, Dr O'Brien sees nothing but pessimism, ethnic cleansing, civil war, and, as your headline puts it, bloodbaths. He makes assertions, which he does not substantiate, claiming "confidential understandings" between the IRA and the Dublin government. As a historian, Dr O'Brien should know that it is his duty to produce evidence if, in fact, he possesses it.

Even relatively simple developments such as the opening of some border roads are seen only as British capitulation to IRA demands rather than positive contributions to the daily lives of ordinary people living in these areas. While he accepts that a Loyalist political agenda of union with Britain is perfectly legitimate, he refuses to similarly accept that a "nationalist agenda" of an ultimately united Ireland could be equally legitimate, if pursued in a peaceful and democratic manner.

Dr O'Brien has long proclaimed against the "wild men" of Irish politics. His predictions of army coups in Dublin within the year indicate wild fantasies of his own, rather than sober reflection. While there are many dangers and pitfalls still to be negotiated, I am glad that for most people in both parts of Ireland, for the Irish community in Britain, and for most British people, these are, indeed, days of hope.

Yours faithfully,

JIM O'HARA

(Director of Irish Studies),

St Mary's University College,

Waldegrave Road, Strawberry Hill,

Twickenham, Middlesex.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

### Public accountability and prisons

From the Director of the Prison Reform Trust

Sir, There are serious issues of public accountability which arise from the designation of the Prison Service as an "agency" under the Government's "Next Steps" programme, as you argue in your leading article today.

Second in size only to the Benefits Agency, and arguably more politically sensitive, the Prison Service was always likely to have a different relationship with its parent department than was, say, the Passport Agency.

It was therefore probably inevitable that the "Prison Service Framework Document" (in effect, the Prison Service's constitution) should leave vague the question of what constitutes policy (a matter for ministers) or operations (a matter for Mr Derek Lewis, the director-general, and his staff). But this week's controversy over the timing of transfers of IRA prisoners to Northern Ireland shows how fine the distinction can be.

However, my impression is that the "terms of trade" changed markedly soon after Michael Howard became Home Secretary. In practice, neither the expectations of the proponents of agency status — who included the Prison Reform Trust — nor the fears of the opponents have been realised. The Home Secretary has kept a firm hand on the reins, although it seems the

director-general has become a convenient whipping boy.

Nevertheless, there is one change in your leader — based on the letter (September 13) from Mrs Seligman, formerly chairman of the Whitmoor Board of Visitors — which I do not believe to be valid. That is, the accusation of Home Office interference in Whitmoor's security procedures.

Until Sir John Woodcock completes his report on the Whitmoor escape attempt (a report which I trust will be made public), the exact sequence of events will not be known. But quite simply, there is no longer anyone in the main Home Office with responsibility for prison matters.

The words "Home Office" are used very loosely by prison staff, but in practice any change in Whitmoor's procedures could only have been ordered by staff in Prison Service HQ or by ministers themselves. There are no other possible suspects.

However, the accusation has been denied by both Mr Howard and Mr Lewis. Given that this would be a clear resigning matter, should Sir John Woodcock find otherwise, I am inclined to believe them.

Yours faithfully,  
STEPHEN SHAW, Director,  
Prison Reform Trust,  
59 Caledonian Road, NI,  
September 14.

### Absent parents

From Mr Bryan McAlley

Sir, Sue Slipman, Director of the National Council for One Parent Families (letter, September 13), expresses the fear that the lone parent's case will not be heard when the inevitable changes to the Child Support Act are implemented.

The plight of lone parents living, as Ms Slipman chooses to describe it, "in poverty" pales into insignificance against the damage being done to absent parents. They, often through no fault of their own, have been unceremoniously discarded by their partner, ordered out of their home, and deprived of the opportunity to be a meaningful parent to their children. They are then expected to hand over the former matrimonial home to their former spouse, together with a substantial capital sum.

This "overdue redistribution of

wealth", as Ms Slipman chooses to describe it, in practice means that the absent parent will, regardless of any residual financial liabilities following the breakdown of the relationship or the costs of accommodating or visiting their children, have much of what they earn taken from them.

The resignation of Ros Hepplewhite was the manifestation of the untenable position of the Child Support Agency in attempting to implement legislation which is unworkable. Sue Slipman's protestations about undermining the principle of social justice will ring hollow as long as she continues to champion the cause of lone parents without regard for the other parent they chose to abandon.

Yours faithfully,  
BRYAN McALLEY  
(Vice-Chairman, Oxford branch),  
The Association for Shared Parenting,  
32b Marlborough Lane,  
Witney, Oxfordshire.

### Time for change?

From Dr Mayer Hillman

Sir, Our research on the consequences of the UK putting its clocks forward by an hour in summer and winter suggests that Christina Speight's objections (letter, September 13) are ill-founded. For every additional road injury on the darker mornings during the experiment of continuous BST from 1968 to 1971, there were four fewer in the lighter afternoons. The Transport Research Laboratory's recent estimate of the likely reduction is based on an update of this far from "dubious" source.

Nearly all sports and leisure bodies are strong supporters of the change, as they do not view the benefit of an extra hour of evening daylight on every day of the year (for instance sunset now at 8.30pm instead of 7.30pm) as "ludicrously" small.

It is however ludicrous for Mrs Speight to imply that the economies of America and Russia are in no way affected by the inconvenience of multiple time zones and she is incorrect about the Far East and Australasia — countries with these regions would be facilitated by the extra overlapping hour.

Yours faithfully,  
MAYER HILLMAN  
(Senior Fellow Emeritus),  
Policy Studies Institute,  
100 Park Village East, NW1,  
September 6.

From Dr Aileen K. Adams

Sir, People tend to become irrational about time. I doubt if Mr Kinna (letter, September 13) would feel much less like a wrong-out discloth if he carried out all his activities one hour later. He could try going to bed an hour earlier.

I often wondered why the Americans started work an hour or more before we did until I noticed that nearly all their houses were in darkness by 10 o'clock. The Chinese manage very well to keep the same hour throughout their country in spite of crossing several time zones. The citizens of Urumbchi go to work at 10am whilst their Peking counterparts start at 7am. At least it makes flight and train times easier.

The most sensible arguments used to be about whether it was safer for children to go to school, or to come home, in darkness. Now this does not apply, simply because they do not go and come, they are taken and met. Father Sillince (letter, September 13) is right, we cannot alter daylight, merely live with it.

Yours faithfully,  
AILEEN K. ADAMS,  
12 Redwood Lodge,  
Grange Road, Cambridge,  
September 13.

Letters to the editor that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 071-782 5046.

### Opera companies under pressure

From Sir John Burgh, President of Trinity College, Oxford

Sir, Rodney Milnes's interesting and perceptive article about the consequences of financial pressure on our opera companies ("Musical board games", Arts, September 12) deserves to be taken very seriously. One of the consequences which needs to be more widely understood is the constantly shrinking and increasingly repetitive repertoire of our major companies.

For example, English National Opera and Covent Garden will be performing *Bohème* 41 times between February 10, 1995, and October 1996; *Così* 28 times between January 19, 1995, and March 1997; *Giovanni* 38 times between October 20, 1994, and December 1996; *Magic Flute* 31 times between October 20, 1994, and December 1996; *The Marriage of Figaro* 23 times between December 10, 1994, and December 1995; *Tosca* 44 times between September 12, 1994, and March 1996; *Traviata* 34 times between November 25, 1994, and October 1996; and *Turandot* 28 times between September 12, 1994, and December 1995.

I have taken these figures from the papers circulated to the most recent meeting of the National Opera Co-ordinating Committee which I chair. It exists to try to limit repertoire duplications and clashes — evidently now very difficult.

The opera houses do not programme like this from choice. Time and again they have been forced by financial exigencies to substitute one of the above, or other popular opera, for others which are by no means *outré* but rated less likely box office successes. In fact, this policy is beginning to be self-defeating, yet the companies are now caught in a cleft stick: they can no longer rely on popular operas to fill the house and cannot risk reviving those less popular.

As Rodney Milnes says, who in present conditions would want the job of opera director?

Yours sincerely,  
JOHN BURGH,  
Trinity College, Oxford,  
September 14.

From Mr Robert Breckman

Sir, The recent resignations in the opera companies' management is symptomatic of a continuing problem in the arts. The strain of balancing budgets and making sure that every production is a success is taking its toll. The managements of arts companies are spending more time on survival than on running the business.

If the "market forces" doctrine is to continue, the "spend to accumulate" one must as well. The Government should recognise what the lack of core funding is doing to the arts and heritage of this country.

Yours faithfully,  
ROBERT BRECKMAN,  
Breckman & Company  
(Chartered accountants),  
49 South Molton Street, W1,  
September 12.

### Slippery slope

From Mr Michael Marland

Sir, While casually (and not a little proudly I might add) listening to the strains of "Land of Hope and Glory" on Saturday's BBC broadcast of the last night of the Proms, I happened to glance at sterling's latest exchange rates displayed in *The Times*.

As the words "Mightier still and mightier" thundered out for the third time, I noted that sterling had fallen through the two Swiss franc barrier for the first time in living memory.

Yours sincerely,  
MICHAEL MARLAND,  
12 St Martins Avenue,  
Epsom, Surrey,  
September 12.

### Royal prerogative?

From Lord Wrenbury

Sir, Your report (September 9) that Buckingham Palace is considering seeking legal redress over what it regards as grossly misleading and inaccurate media reports of the way it uses public money to run the royal palaces. It seems very odd that the Queen can sue her subjects whereas her subjects cannot apparently sue the Queen.

Yours faithfully,  
WRENBURY  
Oldcote, Dallington,  
Nr Heathfield, East Sussex,  
September 9.

### VAT on valour

From Mr Michael Ramsay

Sir, When I got out my Second World War campaign medals to wear for the Brussels liberation celebrations last weekend, I was reminded of the way I obtained them some years ago.

The medals and ribbons arrived safely, but I was somewhat vexed at having to pay Belgian VAT on them. I was still more vexed when I saw that they had been classified under the heading "bijouterie de fantaisie" or "fancy jewellery".

Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL RAMSAY,  
316 Avenue de Messidor,  
1180-Bruxelles,  
September 9.











## NEWS

## Haiti defiance as invasion nears

■ The American invasion of Haiti appeared imminent and inevitable last night after Lieutenant General Raoul Cédras, Haiti's military leader, declared he would rather die than surrender power and leave his country.

As the countdown accelerated President Clinton was addressing the nation from the Oval Office, and administration officials predicted the invasion would happen as soon as Tuesday. Pages 1, 12

## Tories agree to soft pedal on Blair

■ Tony Blair warned his party against complacency and indiscipline amid signs of increasing Conservative disarray over how to counter the popularity of the new Labour leader. The Cabinet agreed that personal attacks on Mr Blair should not be a priority. Page 1

## Carey accuses Britain

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, condemned the "damaging polarisation" of Britain's capitalist society, contrasting it with China's communist state. Page 1

## Yard hits back

Scotland Yard hit back at criticism of its undercover operation to trap Colin Stagg for the murder of Rachel Nickell and apologised to her family for failing to catch the killer. Pages 1, 3

## Tougher Lloyd's

The Lloyd's hardship committee, which had tried to protect names from the blow of bankruptcy, is to be scrapped and effectively replaced by a hard-nosed debt collection agency. Page 1

## Reynolds criticism

Albert Reynolds, the Irish Prime Minister, stepped up his criticism of the British Government for refusing to endorse the IRA ceasefire. Page 2

## Letter pest

An escaped prisoner admitted plaguing the Tory MP Bill Cash's personal assistant with obscene and threatening letters. Page 3

## Channel 5 move

Channel 5, the next national terrestrial TV station, is likely to start broadcasts in early 1996 after the Independent Television Commission announced that it was inviting applications. Page 4

## Switch off, your time is up

■ Television junkies may soon have to contend with "Robonom", an electronic gadget from Singapore, that controls the amount of time the family set can operate. The £55.40 box is based on time credits, which are deducted only when the set is turned on. It can be programmed for hours a day, hours a week, daily hours and weekly hours. Page 12

## Car theft traps

Police are using "honeypot" cars fitted with radar transmitters to trap car thieves in a move which has helped to cut the cost of car crime by £35 million in the first half of the year. Page 5

## Hospital danger

Violent assaults and sexual harassment are daily occurrences on psychiatric wards in London because of chronic overcrowding, the Royal College of Psychiatrists said. Page 6

## Scots drive

The Scottish National Party is to tap into the lucrative American market for political fund-raising by opening its first North American branch. Page 8

## China attack

Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, flew into Hong Kong as China renewed a stinging attack on Chris Patten, the Governor, and the colonial trading house Jardine Matheson. Page 10

## Nureyev's islands

An archipelago lying off a tranquil Italian coast, that belonged to Rudolf Nureyev, went on sale for the modest sum of 4.8 billion lire (£2 million). Page 11

## Algerian atrocities

The bodies of 16 people were found beheaded and mutilated in Algeria as violence continued despite concessions to Muslim fundamentalists. Page 13



Douglas Hurd, on a Far Eastern trip to promote British business, with Nguyen Manh Cam, the Vietnamese Foreign Secretary. Page 10

## BUSINESS

**Aerospace:** Raytheon, the American plane-maker, is to end production of corporate jets in Britain, with the loss of more than 800 jobs. Page 21

**Economy:** High Street sales fell in August, providing yet more evidence that consumer demand is weakening under the weight of tax rises and even before the effects of higher base rates and mortgage rates are felt. Page 21

**Markets:** The FT-SE 100 rose 32.9 to 3127.7. Sterling's index was unchanged at 79.2 after a fall from \$1.5688 to \$1.5630 but a rise from DM2.412 to DM2.4191. Page 24

**Squash:** Chris Walker, the England No 2, faces a difficult opponent in the world championship in Barcelona today, taking on the five-times world champion from Pakistan, Jansher Khan. Page 36

**Washout:** Heavy rain played havoc with sport, washing out the first round of the Dunhill British Masters at Woburn and preventing play in county cricket. Page 38

**Rugby:** The International Rugby Football Board decided that Ray Morritt was ineligible to join the South Africa tour to Britain as an adviser because of his involvement with rugby league. Page 38

**Senior citizen:** No glamour shots celebrate Brigitte Bardot's sixtieth birthday. The screen goddess, has not aged well. Page 14

**Search light:** "We urge you to review the position regarding rights to search visitors," said Paddy Seligman's report from Whitmore prison. Valerie Grove meets the woman who really knows how the system works. Page 15

**Getting faster:** Electronic trading promises to rid the world of paperwork as businesses interconnect their computers. Pages 28-31

**Ivory powers:** Dozens of brilliant young musicians have gathered in London for the World Piano Competition. But do they actually like the world of cut-throat competition? Page 34

**Tosca tumbles:** An ailing tenor and a risible production of Puccini's opera made a poor start to the English National Opera's season at the Coliseum. Page 34

**Pop on Friday:** Caitlin Moran questions the decision of the Mercury Prize judges: Paul Sexton welcomes the return of Traffic; and David Sinclair on the new albums. Pages 32, 33

## THE TIMES TOMORROW

## My father died at Arnhem

■ In Weekend Michael Binyon recalls the battle of 50 years ago which left him fatherless, and interviews the general who commanded the German forces

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■ The Times CD Direct Choice for September is the great pianist Alfred Brendel. Four of his finest recordings are selected for Times readers at special prices

## BERNARD LEVIN

Something called The Churches Commission for Racial Justice has made a right name of itself. And where I come in, is where the thin ice of chattering about the Holocaust looks like cracking. Page 16

## GRAHAM MATHER

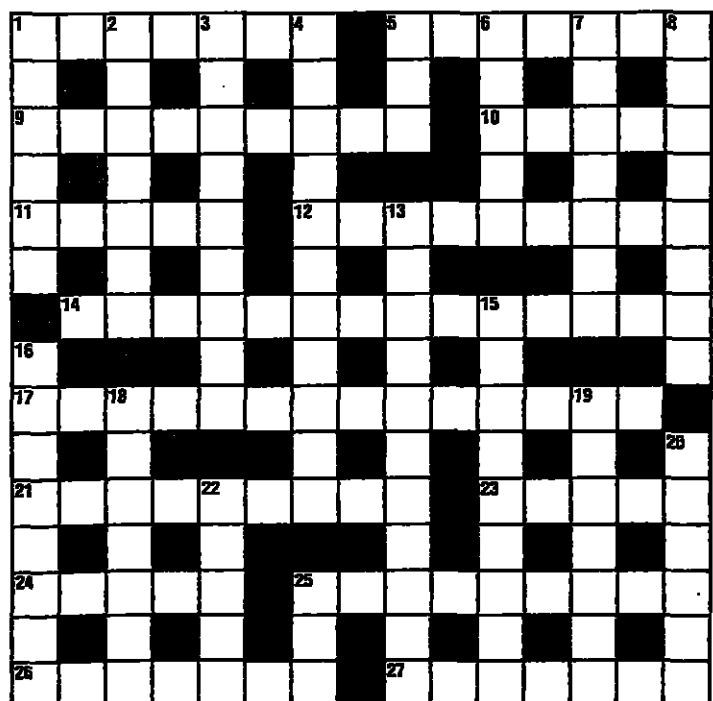
Strikes such as the signal workers' should be unlawful, even if a ballot of workers might approve them, because the damage caused by such strikes cannot be made acceptable by a ballot of those with a mind to cause damage. Page 16

Professor Charles Phillips, neurophysiologist; Jane Gray, concert manager; Sir Ernest Oliver, shoe retailer; Dennis Morgan, Hollywood actor. Page 19

Public accountability and the prison service. Page 17

Mr Barry's candidacy seemed to bespeak the possibility of a return to the past. There can be no such return. — The Washington Post  
The President threatened military action if the junta didn't step down, so his credibility will indeed suffer if he doesn't follow up. But no soldier should have to die to save presidential face. — USA Today

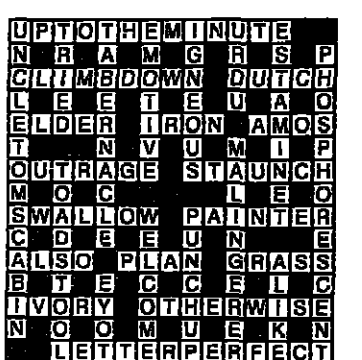
## THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,649



## ACROSS

- 1 Relaxed about one being put in new position (7).
- 5 Plant making Tom a lot of money (7).
- 9 Note to friend in extremely brief style (9).
- 10 So-called lady appearing in Mothers' Union (5).
- 11 Clothing for bride and groom (5).
- 12 Possible daily supplier with reserves higher than average (9).
- 14 Paint used by portrait painter, say, to show military type (6,8).
- 17 Appropriate appearance of two gifts (14).
- 21 Units entering one Asian country or another (9).
- 23 What is the ultimate in despotic misrule? (5).
- 24 After midnight, appear indistinctly in the darkness (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 19,648



## DOWN

- 25 Men fight here to get treasure and jewellery (5-4).
- 26 Building that lacks a cornerstone (7).
- 27 Wicket-keeper who watches everyone getting out? (7).
- 1 Specific part of army put on duty? Nothing in it (6).
- 2 You might find English among Romans resorting here (3,4).
- 3 Bearer of grave information from Arizona town (9).
- 4 Weighs side of beef in food shop scales (11).
- 5 Keen to get started on this sort of crossword (3).
- 6 Records in minutes, say, where some leaders are (5).
- 7 State elected divine female (7).
- 8 Model teddybear in religious edifice (8).
- 13 Dictatorial, like the old woman who lived in a shoe? (11).
- 15 Medal pinned on top tier (9).
- 16 Dog runs after trap (8).
- 18 Ned and Tom's broadcast, last in series (7).
- 19 Business that succeeds in getting people to go away (7).
- 20 Continue to signal, in nautical fashion, this vessel (6).
- 22 New portent for Julius, for example (5).
- 25 Climber stopping short of the top (3).

Times Two Crossword, page 40

## THE TIMES WEATHER

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code.

| Greater London          | 701  |
|-------------------------|------|
| East Surrey             | 702  |
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| West Sussex             | 704  |
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## HIGHEST &amp; LOWEST

Wednesday: Highest day temp. Vero, Isle of Wight, 18C (64F); lowest day temp. Loch Lomond, 10C (50F); highest night temp. Vero, 15C (59F); lowest night temp. Loch Lomond, 4C (39F).

For the latest AA Roadwatch information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the appropriate code.

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INFOTECH 28-31

Taking the lid off the world of electronic trading



ARTS 32-34

Steve Winwood is having a great time playing in Traffic



SPORT 35-40

Selling up and setting sail in pursuit of a dream

TELEVISION AND RADIO  
Pages 38, 39

# THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 16 1994

Wharton faces jail after £43 million mortgage fraud

## Castlegate chief convicted

By SARA MCCONNELL  
PERSONAL FINANCE  
CORRESPONDENT

ROY Wharton, chairman of Castlegate Securities and Castlegate Group Holdings, was yesterday convicted of a £43 million mortgage fraud in which hundreds of investors were conned out of their life savings.

After a three-month trial at Oxford Crown Court, Wharton was convicted by a jury majority of 10-2 on two charges of fraudulent trading through his companies, based in Reading, Berkshire. Judge Richard May rejected Wharton's application for bail, remanded him in custody until sentencing on October 7 and warned him that he faced jail.

Chief Inspector Euan Read, who led the police investigation, welcomed the verdict. He said articles in the *Times*, which was the first to highlight the Castlegate scam, had played a "very significant" part in the investigation and added that the convictions "endorsed the need for a joint Police and Serious Fraud Office team in tackling such very difficult investigations".

Private investors, many of them elderly and retired, were told by Wharton that they would earn a return of 20 per cent on their funds if they

**The Times was the first to highlight Castlegate. The chief inspector who led the investigation said articles in the newspaper had played a "very significant" part**

invested a minimum of £250,000 in the Capital Fund Owners Plan, operated by Castlegate Securities between 1988 and 1990.

The money was used to set up limited companies owned by the investors. These companies then made second and third mortgage advances to home owners and small builders. Castlegate acted on behalf of the companies, producing loan applications, conducting status enquiries valuing the properties, running the loan accounts and handling general administration work.

Castlegate's brochure said: "The Capital Fund Owners Plan provides a unique opportunity for those who have substantial funds available and are looking for a high income without jeopardising their capital security."

The scheme appeared safe to investors because they were told the loans made by their companies would not exceed £25,000 to any one individual and would not be more than 80 per cent of the property's value. Castlegate also guaran-

teed to make good any short-fall suffered by any of the companies. But investors lost millions. Ron Gorrard, a retired builder, said he was "devastated" and "bitter" after losing £56,000 at the hands of Wharton. Investors were unwittingly lending money on 550 "near worthless" properties, whose values had been artificially inflated by Wharton. Properties later valued by the Serious Fraud Office at £75,000 were used as security for loans of £250,000. One house in Reading was used to back loans of £165,000 one month after it had been demolished in February 1990.

As the property market started to collapse, Wharton lent increasingly to a small group of borrowers who did not pay the instalments due on their loans. The group included property developers, whose properties were the subject of trust deeds under which Wharton was a beneficiary, and speculators hoping to demolish and rebuild properties. The largest part of the portfolio was lent to Duncan

McIntyre, recently convicted of mortgage fraud at the Middlesex Guildhall. When these borrowers did not pay off their arrears, Wharton caused further advances to be lent through the lending companies. This meant investors were unknowingly advancing money to pay off interest owed to themselves in the first place.

Collapse was staged off by a £12.5 million injection of funds from National Home Loans, the centralised lender. NHL later discovered that Wharton had used £3 million to service interest payments owed to other lending companies and to pay Castlegate day-to-day running costs. NHL said yesterday it had been "taken in along with everyone else".

Castlegate's premises were searched by the Thames Valley Police and the Serious Fraud Office in November 1990, after two of the leading Castlegate investment companies were placed in liquidation. A subsequent investigation found that more than half the loans had been made to 19 borrowers from 700 on the company's books.

In the sale of his former home, Heron's Reach, in Wargrave, Berkshire, Wharton had inflated the sale price to create what were in effect false loans to the buyers. Wharton had also withdrawn £400,000 from Castlegate to build an indoor swimming pool at his new home at Finchampstead, Berkshire.

Philip Mott QC, prosecuting, said: "You may say that some of these people [the investors] were greedy and you may be right. But it wouldn't be the first case where a dishonest man was preying on and taking advantage of the greed of someone else." Mr Wharton told the court that all deals were thoroughly investigated, potential borrowers vetted and investors kept fully informed of where their money was going. He denied dishonesty.



Roy Wharton outside Oxford Crown Court yesterday

Pennington, page 23

## Tax rises hurt high street spending

By JANET BUSH  
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

HIGH street sales fell in August, providing evidence that consumer demand is weakening under the weight of tax rises and even before the effects of higher base rates and mortgage rates are felt.

The volume of retail sales fell by 0.3 per cent last month compared with July, a poor performance compared with last year, when sales rose by 0.5 per cent. The City had been expecting sales to rise modestly last month. The fall this August took year-on-year growth in retail sales down sharply from 3.8 per cent in July to 2.9 per cent, the lowest annual rate this year apart from in February.

Even comparing the last three months to the previous three, a method preferred by statisticians because it irones out erratic monthly figures, this year's retailing performance compares badly with 1993's. Last year, sales rose by 1.4 per cent in the three months from June to August, while this year the increase was only 0.6 per cent.

It is clear from yesterday's sales figures, together with Wednesday's August retail prices figures, that consumers continue to draw in their horns as soon as retailers try to raise their margins. Retail prices rose 0.5 per cent.

Yesterday's figures provoked criticism of the Government's decision to raise interest rates this week. James May, director-general of the British Retail Consortium, said that higher rates would inevitably have an adverse impact on consumer confidence and the housing market. Richard Brown, deputy director-general of the British Chambers of Commerce, which also opposed the rate increase, said that yesterday's figures confirmed its fears about the fragility of the consumer recovery.

## BUSINESS TODAY

| STOCK MARKET INDICES |                     |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| FT-SE 100            | 3112.7 (-32.9)      |
| Yield                | 4.07%               |
| FT-SE A All share    | 1559.98 (+13.61)    |
| Nikkei               | Closed              |
| New York             |                     |
| Dow Jones            | 3912.83 (+17.50)    |
| S&P Composite        | 471.19 (+2.39)      |
| US RATE              |                     |
| Federal Funds        | 4 1/4% (4 1/4%)     |
| Long Bond            | 5.291% (5.275%)     |
| Yield                | 7.87% (7.88%)       |
| LONDON MONEY         |                     |
| 3-mth Interbank      | 5 1/4% (5 1/4%)     |
| Life long gilt       |                     |
| Future (Sep)         | 100 (99)            |
| STERLING             |                     |
| New York             | 1.5634* (1.5690)    |
| London               |                     |
| \$                   | 1.5635 (1.5679)     |
| DM                   | 2.4180 (2.4124)     |
| FF                   | 8.2650 (8.2416)     |
| Sfr                  | 2.0082 (2.0038)     |
| Yen                  | 158.28 (155.33)     |
| £ index              | 79.2 (79.2)         |
| DOLLAR               |                     |
| London               |                     |
| DM                   | 1.5475* (1.5417)    |
| FF                   | 1.2850* (1.2812)    |
| Sfr                  | 99.42* (98.20)      |
| Yen                  | 62.4 (62.1)         |
| \$ index             |                     |
| Tokyo close Yen      | Closed              |
| NORTH SEA OIL        |                     |
| Brent 15-day (Nov)   | \$15.85 (\$15.70)   |
| GOLD                 |                     |
| London close         | \$388.15 (\$390.45) |

\* denotes midday trading price

## Three-tier EU

The European Monetary Institute, the forerunner of any European Central Bank, has found evidence, in an as yet unpublished study, that supports the view that a three-tier Europe is emerging across European Union members.

Page 25

## Interest caution

Britain's engineering companies yesterday warned the Government against further interest rate rises. They urged the Government to take steps in the Budget to ensure that recovery was sustainable.

Page 22

## Tiphook chief in bankruptcy action

By PHILIP FANGALOS

ROBERT Montague, the founder and chief executive of Tiphook, the debt-crippled transport group, is the subject of a petition for bankruptcy, it was claimed during a stormy annual meeting.

The Royal Bank of Scotland is believed to have called in a £2.5 million personal loan to Mr Montague and a petition for bankruptcy has been presented at Oxford County Court. The Lord Chancellor's press office later confirmed that the petition had been filed.



Montague denial

but Allsop Wilkinson, the solicitors involved, did not comment. The revelation of the bankruptcy petition emerged during the annual meeting at the RAC Club in London's Pall Mall. During the meeting, Tiphook directors faced hostile questions from angry shareholders on executive pay.

After consulting Mr Montague, Rupert Hambro, the outgoing chairman, said Mr Montague denied knowledge of the petition. Paul Snook, of Buchler Phillips, representing American ADR proxy holders, again asked Mr Montague to confirm that he had "no personal financial difficulties". Mr Hambro replied: "Mr Montague says this is untrue." After that denial, Mr Snook emphasised: "A petition has been presented; I did not say it has been issued."

On the bankruptcy petition, which has not yet been lodged with Mr Montague, a spokesman for Tiphook said last night: "This is a matter for Robert Montague, not the company. The company stands behind Mr Montague."

## Mirror resumes payouts

By ALEXANDRA FREAN

MIRROR Group announced its first dividend in three years and unveiled plans to go into cable television.

Profits before tax and exceptional items rose 2.7 per cent, to £34.7 million, in the six months to July 3, despite fierce competition that has resulted from price-cutting by News International. Underlying earnings per share rose to 6.6p, from 6.4p. There is a dividend of 1p.

The company, which publishes the *Daily Mirror* and *Sunday Mirror*, has written off its £22.6 million investment in Newspaper Publishing (NPP), which owns *The Independent* and the independent on *Sunday*. Losses from its 28 per cent stake in NPP, acquired in March, were £1.4 million.

David Montgomery, the chief executive, announced a joint venture with five big cable companies - Comcast, Nymex, Southwestern Bell, TCI and US West - to create a national subscription television channel.

Mirror turned in, page 25

## Former BAe firm to shed 800 jobs

By OUR INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

RAYTHEON, the American plane-maker, is to end production of corporate jets in Britain with the loss of more than 800 jobs. The business, bought from British Aerospace for £250 million only 15 months ago, is to be transferred to a much larger Raytheon plant at Wichita, Kansas.

Workers and politicians were dismayed by the decision, which will end the manufacture of business jets in Britain and lead to 550 job losses at the assembly plant at Broughton, Chwyd, and 300 from the technical and administration centre at Hatfield, Hertfordshire. The jobs of 140 BAe employees who make wings and fuselages for the planes under contract may be at risk.

Roy Norris, Raytheon president, said an upturn in demand for business jets had failed to come. In spite of aggressive marketing world wide, in which Raytheon offered a \$1 million discount on the larger \$13 million jets, sales had declined.

Raytheon is to merge its Hawker corporate jets business, based at Hatfield, with

Beech Aircraft, at Kansas, which produces Beechcraft turboprops and light jets.

Production of the long-range Hawker 1000 will cease immediately. Output of the smaller Hawker 800 will be cut to 18 a year. Last year, output of both models totalled 29.

Initially, 171 workers will be made redundant at Broughton, and 143 jobs will go at Hatfield. Most of the remaining 558 British workers will be made redundant as assembly is shifted to America over 18 months from the end of next year, although some will be invited to move to the US.

To cut costs, Raytheon is also shedding 142 maintenance and fitting-out workers at its corporate jets business in Little Rock, Arkansas, and 490 of the 6,000 employees at Beech Aircraft in Wichita.

John Redwood, Welsh Secretary, has asked the company to let Broughton workers tender for work.

Tony Lloyd, shadow employment minister, said: "The UK cannot afford to lose the skills."

Pennington, page 23

## Executive pay rises are twice inflation rate

By ROSS TIEMAN  
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

MANY of Britain's bosses are continuing to enjoy pay rises more than twice the rate of inflation, even though the level of awards is falling.

Main board directors achieved average basic pay rises of 4.5 per cent in the year to July 31, a survey of 555 parent and subsidiary companies carried out by Monks Partnership, the pay specialist, showed. When bonuses are added, the average rise was 8 per cent. In the same period, underlying inflation was just 2.2 per cent. Adjusted for

inflation, British bosses received bigger pay rises than their continental European counterparts. Directors in Germany, Italy and Spain received inflation-adjusted rises of less than 0.9 per cent. The UK rise was 2.3 per cent.

Rises at main board level were also much higher than those received by directors of subsidiaries. The strong growth in the pay packets of Britain's most senior directors, at a time when rises for more junior executives and employees are being held down, is bound to anger fund managers.

Tim Melville-Ross, the director-general of the Institute of Directors,

has warned directors to think hard about accepting big rises while urging employees to economise. He has also condemned rolling contracts of three years or more that give directors fat pay-offs when they are asked to go because of poor results. The survey confirms that the campaign launched by fund managers against long rolling contracts is having an effect. About 35 per cent of parent company directors now have notice periods of less than three years, against 27 per cent in 1993. But 51 per cent are still on three years.

Despite the size of pay rises awarded to British directors, their peers in

more prosperous continental European countries are better paid.

Europe's best-paid bosses are in Switzerland, where the director of a typical subsidiary with £20 million turnover receives £58,600 post-tax. German directors rank second, £48,700, while French directors are sixth with an average £39,600. Directors of British subsidiaries average £45,000 before tax, or £31,700 net. They rank 11th overall, behind their peers in Greece and Portugal, but well ahead of Finland, Sweden, and Denmark.

Pennington, page 23

IT TAKES  
VISION  
TO  
IMPROVE  
THE  
ECONOMY



# Engineers urge halt to interest rate rises

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

BRITAIN'S engineering companies warned against further interest rate rises. They pointed to strong economic recovery in the industry, but urged the Government to take steps in the Budget to ensure that it was sustainable.

Leaders of the EEF engineering employers were highly critical of the half-point rise in base rates, and yesterday they said that any additional increase would damage confidence and restrict investment.

Graham Mackenzie, the EEF's director-general, said a further rise would be a "bad signal" that would make companies "pause for thought" in planning investment.

EEF leaders urged Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, to change, in his forthcoming Budget, the rules on corporation and capital gains taxes to stimulate investment. Their proposals, which have been put directly to Treasury officials, are for inflation indexation of capital allowances for plant and machinery; 100 per cent allowances for the first £200,000 of new plant; and

tapering of capital gains tax, reducing the rate on assets held for longer periods, to encourage longer-term financial investment.

The EEF's policy on capital allowances has been scaled down, in the hope that it might stand more chance of being accepted by the Treasury than the demand for 100 per cent allowances. The EEF's Budget document for the Chancellor says the cyclical recovery in investment seen so far is insufficient to bring high growth and high employment.

The EEF also published its first quarterly business trends survey of the engineering industry. It claimed its survey was the only one to focus solely on engineering. About 1,700 member companies were questioned late in August and early this month. Mr Mackenzie said "a quick overview" was needed, even if it was "a little rough and ready".

The EEF's survey asks just seven key questions, and includes none of the forward-looking indicators that are a central feature of other quarterly business studies.

The results of the first one suggest that output, orders and exports in the industry are growing, though evidence of a strong recovery is mainly provided by figures that have been seasonally adjusted — an adjustment that other business organisations, such as the CBI and British Chambers of Commerce, do not make to their surveys.

On this basis, a balance of 34 per cent of companies surveyed reported increasing output, 33 per cent rising orders and 23 per cent increasing exports. But EEF officials said that employment in the industry was still not rising. Ian Thompson, the EEF's economics adviser, said the survey would show what was happening to key capital goods and export sectors of the economy.

Wolfgang Münchau, page 25

## TOURIST RATES

|                 | Bank Buys | Bank Sells |
|-----------------|-----------|------------|
| Australia \$    | 2.24      | 2.04       |
| Austria Sch     | 17.98     | 18.48      |
| Belgium Fr      | 32.30     | 48.50      |
| Canada \$       | 2.22      | 2.01       |
| Cyprus Cyp£     | 0.772     | 0.722      |
| Denmark Kr      | 16.15     | 8.36       |
| Finland Mk      | 8.38      | 7.69       |
| France Fr       | 8.72      | 8.02       |
| Germany Dr      | 2.57      | 2.36       |
| Greece Dr       | 383.00    | 358.00     |
| Hong Kong \$    | 12.77     | 11.77      |
| Ireland P£      | 1.06      | 0.98       |
| Italy Lira      | 2545.00   | 2390.00    |
| Japan Yen       | 170.30    | 152.50     |
| Malta           | 0.611     | 0.566      |
| Netherlands Gld | 2.888     | 2.629      |
| Norway Kr       | 11.19     | 10.20      |
| Portugal Esc    | 257.00    | 238.50     |
| S. Africa Rd    | REP.      | 13.49      |
| Spain Ptas      | 208.00    | 194.00     |
| Sweden Kr       | 12.38     | 11.58      |
| Switzerland Fr  | 2.16      | 2.06       |
| Turkey Lira     | REP£      | 5135.0     |
| USA \$          | 1.659     | 1.529      |

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.



David Prosser says rationalisation of the industry could help L&G to grow

## L&G chief forecasts shake-up in life firms

By Sarah Bagnall, Insurance Correspondent

DAVID Prosser, chief executive of Legal & General, has predicted a rationalisation of the UK life insurance industry through a spate of takeovers and the collapse of smaller players.

Mr Prosser said new competitive pressures, such as the disclosure of commissions from the start of next year, will force companies out of the market. "As a result, the big companies with financial strength will take greater market share," he said, adding that it might create acquisition opportunities for L&G.

In response to the expected pressure that commission disclosure will impose on life companies, L&G expects a reduction in its direct sales force over the next 18 months.

In the first six months of the year, the number fell by 500 to 1,800, while Mr Prosser predicts a further fall to about 1,000 by the end of next year. He said: "Commission disclosure will lead to some reduction in overall commissions. Some people who were marginally in the business will no longer be viable to continue."

Some will transfer to L&G's salaried workforce, which is expected to treble to 300. Yesterday, L&G reported a rise in pre-tax profits from £68.5 million to £110.8 million, before investment losses, for the six months to June 30. The inclusion of investment losses left pre-tax profits at £58 million, down from £75 million. The interim dividend was lifted to 6.95p (6.5p) a share, paid out of earnings, including investment losses, of 5.84p (5.3p) a share.

Tempus, page 24

## Booker raises dividend at half time

By Philip Pangalos

BOOKER, the food distribution and agribusiness group, is raising its interim dividend to 7.7p (7.5p) a share after reporting a modest improvement in first-half profits against the background of a tough trading environment.

Pre-tax profits climbed to £30.5 million in the 24 weeks

to June 18, against £29.9 million last time, on turnover of £1.61 billion (£1.51 billion).

Charles Bowen, chief executive, said the group's cash & carry, prepared foods and farm-related business in the UK had performed well, though food and fish operations were hit by competitive pressures. Cash & carry did particularly well, with UK

like-for-like sales ahead by 7 per cent, though margins were eroded by a poorer sales mix.

Mr Bowen said that agriculture went well, particularly salmon farming, but it had been difficult for food services, the fish division and farm-related operations in the US.

There was a better-than-expected £25 million improvement in cash flow. Tighter

working capital control and the group's disposal programme allowed net debt to be reduced to £149 million (£202 million), with gearing cut to 70 per cent, against 120 per cent a year earlier.

Earnings slipped to 9.9p (10.25p) a share, reflecting a minority interest in the fast-growing Portuguese cash & carry business.

## BP on course for big rise in oil output

By Carl Mortished

BP is set for a huge increase in its oil production to the end of the century after exploration success in Vietnam and West of Shetland and agreement on terms with the government of Azerbaijan for the development of three billion barrels of oil beneath the Caspian Sea.

New oil and gas provinces, combined with increased production from Alaska and the North Sea, will increase BP's output by 2 per cent a year into the next century.

Speaking at a meeting of oil analysts in London, John Browne, head of BP Exploration, predicted that BP's worldwide oil production would soar to the equivalent of 1.8 million barrels a day by 2005, from the current level of 1.5 million.

## Lipworth to be chairman of Zeneca

By Melvyn Marcus, City Editor

SIR Sydney Lipworth, former chairman of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, is to become chairman of Zeneca, the pharmaceutical enterprise, after the retirement of Sir Denis Henderson at the annual meeting on May 12.

Sir Sydney, who will join the board on October 1, is deputy chairman of the NatWest, a director of Carlton Communications and chairman of the Financial Reporting Council.

Sir Denis said that Sir Sydney's wide experience would complement the "drive and leadership" of David Barnes, Zeneca chief executive. The appointment is seen as completing the executive jigsaw put together by Sir Denis after last year's ICI/Zeneca demerger.

## COMPANY NEWS IN BRIEF

**BARLOWS** (Int)  
Pre-tax: £208,000  
EPS: 1.04p (1p loss)  
Div: Nil (nil)

**BEAUFORD** (Int)  
Pre-tax: £951,000  
EPS: 3.9p (39.27p loss)  
Div: Nil (nil)

**BR. FITTINGS** (Int)  
Pre-tax: £1.11m  
EPS: 2.73p (1.71p)  
Div: 1p (0.75p)

**BENTALLS** (Int)  
Pre-tax: £343,000 loss  
EPS: 0.55p loss  
Div: 0.6p (0.6p)

**BR. MOHAIR** (Int)  
Pre-tax: £1.27m  
EPS: 8.81p (4.48p)  
Div: 1.4p (1.4p)

**CALA** (Fin)  
Pre-tax: £28.78m  
EPS: 7.25p (1.58p)  
Div: 2.8p (2.3p)

**FOLKES GROUP** (Int)  
Pre-tax: £1.3m  
EPS: 2.58p (0.29p)  
Div: 0.592 (0.574)

**HAWTAL WHITING** (Int)  
Pre-tax: £1.6m  
EPS: 12.8p (0.8p)  
Div: Nil (nil)

**PROUDFOOT** (Int)  
Pre-tax: £6.4m  
EPS: 5.2p (26.2p loss)  
Div: 2p (2p)

**SIRDAR** (Fin)  
Pre-tax: £5.57m (£5.73m)  
EPS: 8.9p (6.89p)  
Div: 3.7p, mkg 5.42

There was a £202,000 interim loss previously. Selective acquisition of high-yielding regional property will continue.

There was a £3 million loss previously. Operating profits were £802,000, against losses of £652,000.

Previous interim profit was £672,000. Turnover was almost unchanged at £36.7 million, compared with £36.4 million.

Previous interim loss was £410,000 before tax, with loss per share of 0.67p. Reductions in Uniform Business Rate agreed.

Previous interim profit was £907,000. Turnover rose to £17.2 million from £14.8 million. Similar return in second half.

Profit in previous year was £226,000. Turnover was £77.6 million, against £77.4 million. Slow recovery in housing market.

Profit in previous year was £200,000. Net asset value edged higher to 78.6p a share from 78.5p.

Previous interim profit was £402,000. Turnover rose to £40.8 million from £34.5 million. Positive statement on outlook.

There was a £13.99 million interim loss last time, including a loss of £18.3 million on closure. Net cash of £18 million at half-year.

Total dividend in previous year was 5.35p a share. There was a £1.1 million loss on hand knitting yarns.

## Lawson's OECD chances improve

LORD Lawson's chances of becoming the next head of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development have strengthened after the withdrawal of Lorenz Schomerus, a German trade official, leaving three candidates.

They are Lord Lawson, the former head of the Canadian Liberal Party; and Jean-Claude Paye, the current French secretary-general of the OECD, a think-tank for the advanced economies. Herr Schomerus, like Lord Lawson, had long been seen to have only an outside chance of winning the race, but Germany appeared to have improved Lord Lawson's chances, as the deadlock continued over the main contenders. Bonn's decision came after a meeting of OECD ambassadors at which America, Canada and Japan stuck by Mr Johnston as the man needed to end European dominance of the OECD. But M Paye, whose term of office ends this month, is backed most members of the European Union.

## Meggitt pegs payout

MEGGITT, the aerospace and electronics group, has held the interim dividend at 1.3p despite a decline in earnings to 2.5p a share from 3.3p in the half year to June 30. Taxable profits fell to £8.6 million from £10.8 million, reflecting weak order intake in the final quarter of 1993. Turnover fell to £16.8 million from £19.2 million. First-half orders were up 8 per cent year-on-year. Difficult trading conditions persist in aerospace, but the electronics division has improved sales and profits. Ken Coates, chairman, said the board was optimistic trading conditions were now slowly improving.

## EGIT slumps to loss

THE East German Investment Trust (EGIT), which is based in London, slumped to a net loss of DM2.76 million in the 15 months to March 31, from a DM958,000 profit in calendar 1992, preliminary figures showed. This gave a loss per share of DM0.048 after a profit of DM0.014 in 1992. EGIT, whose accounts have not yet been delivered to the registrar of companies, has cited difficulties in evaluating its portfolio on the present investment environment in eastern Germany. Net asset value in the latest period fell to DM2.60 (DM2.80) in 1992. There is no dividend.

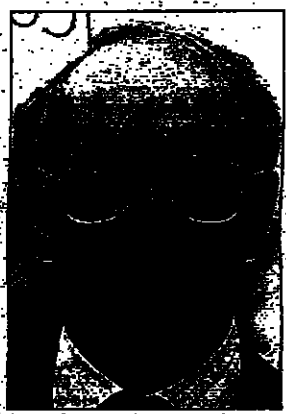
## Kwik-Fit accelerates

KWIK-FIT Holdings, the auto repair group, has redoubled efforts to take business from rivals and achieved a 14 per cent sales rise to £150 million in the six months to August 31. Pre-tax profits grew a third to £15.2 million in the first half, and shareholders will receive a 1.7p interim, up 13 per cent from the half-year payout in 1993. Kwik-Fit increased its share of the tyres market from 14 to 19 per cent during the period. At the end of August Kwik-Fit had net cash of £18.4 million and earnings per share were 6.2p, covering the interim almost four times.

Tempus, page 24

## Courtaulds Textiles dips

A £7.4 million loss at the hosiery and sock businesses that were recently acquired from Hartstone depressed first-half profits at Courtaulds Textiles, said Noel Jervis, right, chief executive. Group pre-tax profits fell to £10.1 million from £13.7 million in the six months to June 30. On a like-for-like basis, operating profits were flat, but taxable profits grew 22 per cent to £14.6 million. The interim dividend is lifted to 4.9p (4.7p), a rise of 4 per cent.



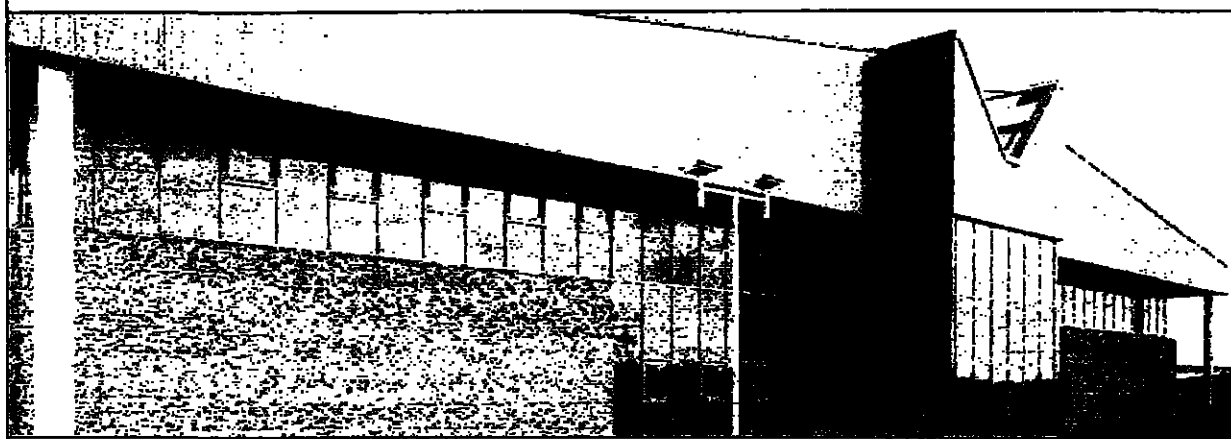
## Boost for John Lewis

RENT rebates and the absence of exceptional costs helped lift pre-tax profits at John Lewis Partnership, the department store group, to £28.6 million from £16.4 million in the six months to July 30. Excluding one-off items and exceptional charges in the previous period, underlying profits rose 33 per cent. Stuart Hampson, chairman, said the improvement was driven largely by strong sales growth. Turnover rose 5 per cent to £1.19 billion from £1.13 billion, with a 7 per cent rise at the 22 John Lewis department stores and a 4 per cent increase at the Waitrose supermarket chain.

## T&N acquires options

T&N, the car component and engineering group, has agreed to pay a maximum of DM282.6 million (£118 million) if it exercises options it has acquired to buy 52.5 per cent of Kolbenschmidt, the German piston ring maker. The options are exercisable until March 31 next year. Any profit or loss from a 24.99 per cent stake in Kolbenschmidt to be acquired by Commerzbank, a leading German bank, for DM124.4 million (£51.8 million), will, however, be on T&N's account. A consortium led by Commerzbank is buying the majority of Kolbenschmidt from Metallgesellschaft, of Germany.

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## Interim dividend 1994

Notice is hereby given that a balance of the Register will be struck on Thursday, 13th October, 1994 for the preparation of warrants for an interim dividend for the year 1994 of 11.2p per 25p Ordinary share payable on 3rd November, 1994.

For transferees to receive this dividend, their transfers must be lodged with the Company's Registrar - Lloyds Bank Registrars, The Causeway, Worthing, West Sussex BN99 6DA, not later than 3pm on 13th October, 1994.

## SHARE WARRANTS TO BEARER

The Coupon to be presented for the above dividend will be No. 192 which must be deposited at Lloyds Bank Plc, Registrars' Department, Issues Section, Ground Floor, P.O. Box 1000, Arthol House, 71 Queen Street, London EC4N 1SL (not later than 13th October, 1994, to receive payment on 3rd November, 1994) or may be surrendered through Messieurs Lazard Frères et Cie, 121 boulevard Haussmann, 75382, Paris Cedex 08.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD  
Miss J. E. Munro  
Secretary

Shell Centre,  
London SE1 7NA  
15th September, 1994



□ High returns mean higher risk □ British jobs go West □ Names given a commercial break

## Fraud is greed's partner

GREED makes fools of sensible folk. When Professor Jim Gower framed the Financial Services Act he recognised that no system of regulation could prevent fools being parted from their money. He aimed only "to protect reasonable people being made fools of". That Act does not seem to have applied to the loan schemes marketed by Roy Wharton. But the companies and private investors who suffered grievously in the case of many individuals, surely owed some of their misfortune to folly as well as to the fraudulent corruption of which Mr Wharton was convicted yesterday.

The Castlegate schemes were designed to look foolproof. Investors' money would be spread round. There would always be a margin of property equity to cover the loans and, if all failed, the promoter would make good the difference. In the event, loans were increasingly channelled to a few of Mr Wharton's cronies and business partners and values were inflated. Yet the scheme was always too good to be true.

Every generation has to learn anew that investments "guaranteeing" higher returns than the market always carry a price. That price is usually high risk. The Castlegate empire was a child of the 1980s, much like Barlow Clowes, which promised higher returns from investing in

gilt-edged than the stocks themselves paid. History is littered with such failures, but names such as the State Building Society or Finstock Finance soon fade from the collective memory.

Every economy needs investors who are prepared to take high risks in search of high rewards. Otherwise, great firms would never be made, new oilfields would lie undiscovered, and pioneering developments remain unbuilt. The financial markets would shrink to inefficiency if speculators did not speculate. No problem, so long as the risk is understood and people do not play fast and loose with their life savings. Disaster looms when investors kid themselves that they can gain high returns yet somehow avoid the risk. Mr Wharton's guarantee was no stronger than his own company, which was swiftly washed away when the risks he took with investors' money fell foul of falling property prices.

To make really high returns, it is a better bet to be a promoter. Mr Wharton understood that. Those who sell franchises usually do better than franchisees.

Hedge fund managers usually come out better than those who merely put up money. Even in the supposedly sober 1990s, the boardroom gravy train is a lot plusher than the shareholder's dividend. In mass market privatisations, option-rich directors can ensure they do far better than the public. Even now, as the latest pay survey shows, directors can raise their own pay much more generously than they can afford to reward employees.

Passive investors always need to remember that. Otherwise they are always likely to be made fools of, whether it be by greed or by the smooth-talking fraudster.

### A flight to nowhere

NO WONDER John Cahill took his £3½ million payoff from British Aerospace and high-tailed it back across the Atlantic. On June 1 last year he sold BAE's successful corporate jets business to Raytheon of the United States. The sale, he said, was "good for the corporate jets business and its employees".



PENNINGTON

adding: "Raytheon's substantial resources will enable the further potential of the highly successful 125 series to be realised."

Yesterday, Raytheon said it is cutting output by a third, and transferring the business, lock stock and fuselage, to Wichita, Kansas. More than 850 British jobs will be lost.

Thirty years ago, Britain had the second-biggest aerospace industry in the Western world, outside the United States. Now it is being dismembered. Today corporate jets. Tomorrow turbo-prop aircraft. Next year regional jets. Where will it end?

In the next 20 years, says Boeing, airlines will buy 12,000 new planes, worth \$980 billion. Successful manufacturing econo-

mies, such as Germany, Japan, France and the United States are nurturing their aerospace interests, their eyes firmly fixed on this long-term prize.

But what is Britain's strategy? British Aerospace inherited a portfolio of aircraft designs spanning almost every sector of the market. Some have been updated, others discarded. None has been replaced. Under-capitalised and unaided by the kind of government support its competitors enjoy, BAE has retrenched.

Only in the jet airliner market has it achieved a second-hand success, piggy-backed on the support offered by other governments to the Airbus Industrie consortium. But even here, BAE's hold is tenuous, its commitment is questioned.

Rationalisation to achieve commercially viable volumes is as desirable in the aerospace industry as any other. Subsidies are obnoxious. But so is the loss of British jobs when foreign companies that buy their British competitors, close down their factories, and transfer produc-

tion overseas.

Mr Cahill has already returned to America. The more fortunate of Raytheon's workers will be invited to follow his example. Will the last aerospace worker to leave please turn out the factory lights?

### Stroking Lloyd's new pit bull

LLOYD'S no-messing-about debt recovery plans look as aggressive as a pit bull terrier.

The insurance market has brought in a terrifying tag-team in the form of the former head of NatWest's debt collection department, and Dibo Lupton Broomhead, the law firm that specialises in wringing debts out of the unwilling. But delving behind the new approach a different picture appears. The aim is unchanged. Lloyd's wants — and needs — to collect £1.3 billion of unpaid debts from its members. But, as before, it is the "can pay, won't pay" brigade that it is gunning for.

Until now, names have had the limited choice between paying their debts, not paying their

debts, or applying for hardship. Hardship only appealed to those who without it faced bankruptcy, thanks to the committee's Dickensian qualification requirements. There was no middle ground for the mass of names who had assets which fell short of their debts, but with which they were loathe to part unless they had too.

The new approach is commercial. Reading behind the delphic remarks from David Rowland, Lloyd's chairman, it may prove a more popular and attractive alternative to many names. There is a chance that they can strike their own deals. This may result in individual scheduled repayment plans enabling names to continue living in their homes, with a lifestyle more in keeping with what they have become accustomed to.

The cynics may still believe the whole exercise will be one of arm-twisting. But maybe the new approach has been borne out of new realism at Lloyd's. The debt collection exercise is vital to Lloyd's. The market looks as if it has passed the annual DTI solvency test, but probably ran closer to the line than anyone would have liked. With a further £2 billion debts yet to be called — let alone recovered — from an already malcontent membership, the need to take a commercial and humane approach is vital.

## Big margins in UK are over, says UB chief

By SUSAN GILCHRIST

UNITED Biscuits, the McVitie's to KP food manufacturer, underlined the ferocity of competition in the British food sector as it acknowledged that margins were unlikely ever to recover to 1980s levels.

Eric Nicoli, chief executive, said future growth in Britain would come from driving up volumes rather than increasing margins. "Trading is tougher and we have to recognise that margins will be lower than we have enjoyed historically. But that does not mean an end to growth."

He said margins in Britain had been adversely affected by a more competitive retail environment, the growth of own-label and the need for increased marketing investment in branded products. However, he believed the situation was now beginning to stabilise. "In the future, the biggest influence on margin will be marketing investment," he said.

United Biscuits is increasing its marketing budget by about 20 per cent in the current financial year to protect and build its leading brands and to fund an acceleration in the development of new products.

"Marketing initiatives fund-

ed by cost savings will drive future growth," Mr Nicoli said. His remarks came as UB unveiled a 12 per cent rise in pre-tax profits before exceptional items to £80.1 million, from £71.4 million. A fall in profits from Britain was offset by strong growth in the US and Australia, and steady progress in continental Europe.

Mr Nicoli said the difficulties in Britain should not be over-stated in the context of the group. "The UK now accounts for only 45 per cent of sales, compared with about 70 per cent three years ago. It is still our most important market but it is important to get it into perspective." The big six retailers account for less than a fifth of group sales.

He was encouraged by recovery in Keebler, the American biscuit and snacks business, whose profits increased by 9 per cent. "There has been a lot of uncertainty about Keebler and it is now progressing well," he said. Further benefits would come next year from the current restructuring of the business.

New product development is to be stepped up across the group, particularly at McVitie's. More than ten new products will be launched in Britain this year, and double that number next year.

The hot weather across Europe depressed sales at the beginning of the second half, but UB remains confident of a satisfactory outcome for the year as a whole.

The interim dividend is unchanged at 5.5p a share, paid from earnings of 10.7p a share, reduced from 17.1p. Mr Nicoli said the group intended to increase dividend cover to more than two times before resuming a progressive dividend policy.



Nicoli: volume growth

Tempus, page 24

## APV shares dive as dividend is cut

By MARTIN BARROW

SHARES in APV plunged to 83p, from 118p, after the process engineering group halved its interim dividend and said that substantial rationalisation was essential for the company to stay competitive.

The group, which has paid a dividend uncovered by earnings for the past four years, said that asset sales might be needed to cut costs further, raising doubts about the future of its 11,000-strong workforce. In 1993, there was a £16.1 million charge against earlier rationalisation.

Sir Peter Cazalet, chairman, said: "Over the past few years, we have made real progress in rationalising capacity, improving efficiency, divesting non-core businesses and focusing on identified target markets. However, competition in our main markets has recently become much more intense,

and this is undermining prices at which orders are currently being won. We believe that competitive pressures are unlikely to ease in the near future."

The value of orders in hand has risen by 18 per cent, year on year, but new business was won at margins' expense.

In the half year to June 30, pre-tax profits rose to £5.8 million, from £4.4 million. Turnover dropped to £381.3 million, from £416.9 million, which included £42 million from discontinued operations. The interim dividend falls to 0.5p, from earnings per share of 1p, up from 0.5p.

Clive Strowger, chief executive, said that he could not be specific about the costs. Plans to restructure the liquid food division were incomplete.

Tempus, page 24

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## STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

## Speculators develop taste for shares in Unigate

SPECULATORS gorged themselves on a diet of Unigate shares, sending the price of the food and dairy products group climbing 13p to 363p. By the close of business a total of 2.1 million shares had changed hands in a market-place where traders are usually only prepared to deal in 25,000 at a time.

Investors' appetites were whetted by reports from Amsterdam that HJ Heinz was poised to bid for Verendeg Bedrijven Nutricia, the Dutch food group in which Unigate holds a 32.6 per cent stake. Talk is that a bid for Nutricia could value Unigate's stake at more than £200 million. Speculators claim that such a deal would provide Unigate with the funds to make a bid for Hazlewood, the rival food group.

Such talk may account for the resilience of the Hazlewood share price yesterday, which climbed 9p to 139p despite a profits warning from Peter Barr, the chairman. He told shareholders at the annual meeting that there would be a significant shortfall in interim profits, due to tough competition and problems with four of its new investments. He also outlined a boardroom shuffle which saw John Simons, the finance director, being promoted to chief executive. His place is to be taken by Kevin Higginson, the financial controller.

Elsewhere, share prices bounced back strongly after seven consecutive days of losses. A firm bond market provided the foundations for what brokers described as "a rally in a bear market", with the FT-SE 100 index shadowing a sharp rise in the future before today's expiry of the September series. It burst back through the 3,100 level, closing just shy of its best of the day with a rise of 32.9 points to 3,127.7, a 12-point discount to the future, helped by firm start to trading on Wall Street. Investors were encouraged by the latest data on retail sales and the Philadelphia Fed Index, which both pointed to a slow-down in economic growth and allayed fears of further rises in interest rates short term.

However, once again turnover remained low, with 589 million shares traded.

Among oils, BP firmed 3p to 420.5p as 9 million shares were traded after giving a presentation to brokers that



Granada's Gerry Robinson plans to focus on other brokers

focused on the group's exploration projects. There was little follow-through in the price of Shell, despite news of a near-10 per cent rise in the dividend, which comes one month after the group unveiled a 6 per cent rise in first half historic net income to £1.6 billion. The shares ended only 1/2p firmer at 722 1/2p.

Granada Group stood out with a leap of 14p to 490p after a meeting with Hoare Govett, the chief executive, plans meetings with other brokers over the next few days. The share price has come back from the 600p level since the start of the year.

The composite insurers enjoyed modest gains, with the exception of Sun Alliance, up 10p at 323p, amid talk that a buy note on the company is about to be published by one stockbroker.

United Biscuits, the Mc-

BAKYRCHIK, the mining group searching for gold in Kazakhstan, rose 5p to 297p as its broker Williams de Broe put the finishing touches to the group's placing and open offer. Baky-

rchik will be raising £25.1 million by issuing 9.45 million shares at 283p. Most of the shares have been placed with institutions.

the broker, on Wednesday night. A number of positive points emerged from the meeting with Granada, anxious to deny market speculation that it wants to bid for Gardner Merchant, the independent caterer which was the subject of a management buy-out from Forte and has since been planning its own stock market flotation. The meeting with Hoare comes a few weeks before the end of the group's financial year. Gerry Robin-

Vie and Crawford's food group, shaded a penny to 319p after producing interim figures at the top end of expectations. Pre-tax profits were 12 per cent higher at £80.1 million, but the group indicated that hot weather had adversely affected sales at the start of the second half.

Mirror Group eased 4p to 131p after reporting a small rise in interim pre-tax profits from £33.8 million to £34.7 million. But circulation of the

period at about 2.5 million copies a day.

Smith New Court, the broker, was counting its blessings yesterday that it had not run up a long position in shares of APV, which touched 75p before ending the session 35 1/2p lower at 83p after halving the interim dividend to 1p. Almost 13 million shares changed hands in the food machinery manufacturer, which gave warning to the market that despite a growing order book, competition was forcing down prices. Pre-tax profits during the first six months came in at the top end of the range at £5.8 million, compared with £4.4 million. The halved dividend is now only just covered by earnings of 1p a share. The message from Smith to clients last night was - sell.

Shares of Savoy 'A' briefly touched 900p before finishing the session unchanged at 913p as investors continued to reflect on this week's management changes. On Wednesday some of the trustees holding the all-important 'B' shares resigned. But it has been emphasised that the number of 'B' shares held by the trustees remains unaltered.

Cash flow problems left YRM, the architectural consultancy, 2p easier at 19p. The group has taken on a lot of new projects which have placed a strain on cash flow. The group is talking about a possible restructuring.

GILT-EDGED: Gilts reacted positively to the retail sales figures and, just when prices showed signs of flagging, received a further boost from publication of the Philadelphia Fed Index. As a result, prices closed just below their best of the day with the Bank of England cutting the price of the two remaining conventional taps. Treasury 7 per cent 2001 and Treasury 8 1/2 per cent 2007, before selling all outstanding stock.

The December series of the Long Gilt future climbed 1/2p to 599 1/2p, with a total of 63,000 contracts completed. In

longs, benchmark Treasury 9 per cent 2012 jumped almost 1p to £103, while at the shorter end, Treasury 9 1/2 per cent 1999 finished 1 1/2p better at £102 1/2p.

NEW YORK: Shares were better at midday as investors put aside fears of inflation and higher interest rates. The Dow Jones industrial average was up 17.50 at 3,912.83.

Closing Prices Page 27

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday): Dow Jones 3,912.83 (+17.50) S&P Composite 471.19 (+2.39)

Tokyo: Nikkei Average 8662.64 (+16.24)

Hong Kong: Hang Seng 8662.64 (+16.24)

Amsterdam: EOE Index 411.61 (+1.05)

Sydney: ASX 2050.8 (+0.3)

Frankfurt: DAX 2113.98 (+10.14)

Singapore: Straits 2280.84 (+17.47)

Brussels: General 7375.53 (+40.48)

Paris: CAC-40 1977.30 (+24.36)

Zurich: SKA Gen 667.30 (+0.50)

London: FT 30 2436.2 (+28.8)

FT 100 3112.7 (+32.9)

FT-SE Mid 250 3648.9 (+20.5)

FT-SE Europe 100 1068.54 (+7.68)

FT All-Share 1559.98 (+13.61)

FT Non Financials 1685.79 (+14.55)

FT Gold Miners 274.30 (+0.43)

FT Fixed Interest 107.21 (+0.52)

FT Govt Secs 90.76 (+0.32)

Bargains 2428

SEAQ Volume 394,591

USX (Amsterdam) 161.54 (+0.02)

USX 1,500 (+0.008)

German Mark 2.4191 (+0.0001)

Exchange Index 79.2 (based on Bank of England official rate 1992)

RECENT ISSUES

Ball Giff Shn Npn Wts 78 1/2

Beacon Inv Trst (100) 96

Beacon Inv Trst Wts 39

Coml Foods Wts 14

INVESTCO Jap Disc 90

INVESTCO Jap Disc Wts 46

JF Fledge Japan Wts 60

Magnum Power 61

Orbis (23) 29

Panther Wts 17

Petroceltic 26

Suter Wts 99/04 33

TR Euro Gwth Prg (100) 105

Temp Eng Mkts Wts 203

Temps Estates Wts 20

RIGHTS ISSUES

Comm Union n/p (475) 51 -3

EMAP n/p (560) 22 -3

Wair Group n/p (252) 19 -1

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES: Lloyds 556p (+13p)

Net West 497p (+10p)

SG Warburg 727p (+10p)

Barrett Dvcs 192p (+10p)

Redland 515p (+10p)

Produtest 81p (+10p)

Unigate 965p (+18p)

Courtyard Text 511p (+13p)

Powell Duffryn 578p (+10p)

Sun Alliance 523p (+10p)

GUS 549p (+12p)

Kingfisher 502p (+14p)

J Sainsbury 444p (+11p)

Unilever 958p (+6p)

BOC 730p (+10p)

Charter 808p (+12p)

Delta 478p (+11p)

Logica 318p (+14p)

Mitel 238p (+24p)

Booker 480p (+22p)

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Johnson Fy 188p (-10p)

Danisco 85p (-35p)

Farve Bus Systems 289p (-9p)

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MAJOR



# British borrowers pay price for Maastricht opt-out

Europe is already geared for three speeds. Wolfgang Münchau reports from Brussels



Kenneth Clarke, who seems to have bought the European line on the UK

includes Denmark, a country otherwise assumed to be in the core group, given its strong economy and close economic links to Germany and the other members of the hard core.

Denmark, however, shares with Britain the distinction of having secured an opt-out of the third stage of monetary union. From a market point of view, an opt-out means reduced likelihood of participating in the third stage, when the currencies will be fixed and governed by a European central bank. That can, in principle, be good news or bad news, but it appears that the opt-out group underperforms the opt-in group. Markets have greater confidence in the ability of the future European central bank and the fiscal policies of the participating countries than in the equivalent institutions and policies of Britain and Denmark.

Taking the argument a step further, it seems that British mortgage holders or corporate debtors pay a Maastricht opt-out premium. It remains politically defensible to argue that such a premium is worth paying, since it buys continued sovereignty. However, if not joining the third stage means perpetually higher interest and mortgage rates than elsewhere in the EU, the political pressure to join the third stage is bound to increase and may become overwhelming. Hence, the EMI results have a significance that potentially goes beyond financial markets.

While the markets are moderately pessimistic about Britain and Denmark, which will after all probably qualify under the Maastricht Treaty's economic criteria, they are even more pessimistic about the countries that want to join, but may not be able to because of their precarious fiscal position. The third tier in this group is made up of precisely those countries.

The only distortion of the picture is the position of Ireland and Belgium. At the Ecofin meeting it also became clear that if European monetary union occurs, Ireland will qualify as a member — it and Luxembourg are the only countries to have qualified already — while "hard core" Belgium, with its debt-to-GDP ratio of 150 per cent, may not.

There remains the question of how markets will react once the third stage begins. The Maastricht Treaty set January 1, 1999, as the final date, but it could happen earlier. By exempting Ireland from the excessive deficit procedure, the Commission and most finance ministers have opted for a flexible interpretation of the Maastricht convergence criteria. This may well mean that the number of countries deemed to have qualified under these criteria within two years could have risen to eight or nine, which would constitute a simple majority of the then-enlarged EU. This would allow these countries to push ahead with the third stage as early as January 1, 1997.

As EMU approaches, markets will continue to make the kind of judgments that have given rise to the EMI study. These are economic judgments of which the political corollaries, as the case of the CDU paper exemplifies, send shivers down the spines of many Europeans.

## Mirror tunes into cable TV potential

Battered by declining circulations, the newspaper group is looking for new revenue sources, says Alexandra Frean

Mirror Group's decision to dip its toe into the turbulent waters of cable television is driven by an urgent need to diversify and bring on new revenue streams.

The circulation of its flagship titles, the *Daily Mirror* and the *Sunday Mirror*, has edged up in the past few months, but national newspapers are widely regarded as a mature industry with limited room for growth. In the closing months of last year, before the recent modest rally, the *Daily Mirror* lost more than 130,000 sales — a drop of 6.2 per cent.

Circulation of the *Sunday Mirror* fell by more than 120,000, or 3.1 per cent, over the same period. Only *The People*, sales of which have risen 0.5 per cent in the past year, appears to be bucking the trend.

Mirror Group's joint venture with five of the world's biggest cable operators — Comcast, Nynex, Southwestern Bell, TCI and US West — gives the group a natural entry into national television. Unlike terrestrial television, cable TV is not bound by tight cross-media ownership restrictions, so it would be possible for the Mirror Group to take a controlling stake in the venture.

Although the channel will only have access to slightly more than half a million subscriber homes when it is launched — probably next year — strong growth is forecast for the sector. According to the latest predictions from Zenith Media, the sales house, the number of homes connected to broadband cable will rise from 763,000 this year to almost 4.4 million by 2003.

David Montgomery, Mirror Group's chief executive, has signed heads of agreement with the five cable operators but has given no details about the size and nature of the deal. The implication, however, is that he is committing the company to little up-front investment and is more interested in providing programmes for the venture than developing the hardware, or the means of distribution. As he

pointed out yesterday, the company is not in a position to throw hundreds of millions of pounds at high-risk projects. It is still recovering from the legacy of debt and mismanagement from the Maxwell era. During the past six months, it has arranged a £350 million debt restructuring that has brought a "considerable reduction" in financing costs. John Alwood, the finance director, says the hope is that the banks can treat the Mirror Group as a "normal" company again.

The fact that Mr Montgomery has managed to do a deal with some of the major players in the cable industry must be encouraging for Mirror shareholders. Providing programming for the new channel should enable him to squeeze more out of the news-gathering organisation at the *Mirror* and *Independent* titles. There is also huge potential for cross-promotion between the Mirror newspaper and the television channel.

It seems likely that the television venture will operate along the lines of American broadcasters, with a single national strand of programming and a number of programme opt-outs for affiliated local or regional stations.

The company has also signed heads of agreement with Midland Independent Newspapers, which owns *The Birmingham Post*, to develop a local version of Live TV. This suggests that it might be interested in entering other joint regional ventures.

The emphasis in the Mirror's statement yesterday on providing television coverage of live events indicates, too, that it may be considering sports coverage, as well as news and current affairs programming.

Mr Montgomery's television ambitions clearly go beyond cable. He indicated that he would be interested in joining a consortium to bid for the franchise for Channel 5, which is expected to be Britain's last terrestrial television station.

## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

### Expertise to the fore

GOLFING circles in the North West, as well as the housebuilding industry at large, had better watch out. From the beginning of next month, Jeremy Dawson, managing director of Rothchild Ventures, will be giving up his day job to transfer fully into the commercial world by becoming finance director of Redrow, the newly quoted, Decadent housebuilder. Dawson, 42, insists he plays off 15, but often fails to admit that he was once Scottish schoolboy champion. At Rothchild, he has been similarly triumphant. Apart from spotting the early potential of Redrow, where he has long been a non-executive director, Dawson is also on the board of Hodder Headline, the mass market book publisher, and Surgicraft, the burgeoning healthcare group. Fore!

### Upping sticks

IN THE Far-East, they do it by halves... eight research analysts based in the Hong Kong office of Smith, Kew, Court (Far East), and which as "the team of the century" was noted for its coverage of Sri Lanka, Pakistan, India and Bangladesh, have upped with their chop sticks and moved to UBS Securities. Niall Shiner and seven others leave behind a four-person sales team and a four-person settlements team. "We are actively recruiting in the area," an inscrutable spokesperson says.



"It's thin, it crumbles easily. I say we call it 'profit margin'."

### City rounds

ADRIAN Nash, who has royally entertained many in his time, and who is best remembered for his chief executive days with Monarch Resources in Venezuela, is back doing the City rounds. He has been granted rights over 806,000 acres in the Guyana region of eastern Venezuela — an area nine times the size of the Isle of Wight — and hopes to raise \$15 million for Delta Minerals to develop extensive bauxite deposits. Among the old Monarch people as a fellow director is Lord Ivor Alexander Michael Mountbatten — great-nephew of the late Earl Mountbatten of Burma, cousin to the Prince of Wales, and a former gold prospector to boot.

### Broken note

WARBURGS spoiled its kind research note about Meggit by claiming that "SG Warburg Securities acts as stockbroker to this company". Actually, Smith New Court is Meggit's broker... and has been for at least two years.

TAKING a break from cross-examining City executives and writing about other people's new issues, Martin Waller, *Business News* deputy city editor, has a new issue of his own to talk about. To wife Jan, a High Court star of the Press Association, a 6lbs 12oz daughter, Eve Charlotte Grace. In keeping with journalistic tradition, Eve arrived bang on time for lunch.

COLIN CAMPBELL

### Time to abolish share options

From V. J. Morgan  
Sir, Is it not time that the issue of share options be abolished completely? Attempts to justify them have been made — that they act as an incentive to work better for the companies concerned. But, in almost every case, these recipients are already very highly paid, and if they need any further incentive to make them work to the best of their ability, then in my opinion they are not fit to have their jobs.

Many years ago, the late Jo Grimond wrote that public companies are run for the benefit of the directors, not the shareholders, and this dictum is as true today as it was then. Yours faithfully, V. J. MORGAN, 16 Beechcroft Court, Four Oak Road, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands.

### Ministries of debt

From Clive Osborne  
Sir, I was most interested in your article on "late payers" (August 26). The chief offenders today are the local and central government departments. Our ministers should put their own "house" departments in order, since I have payments from last year not settled yet.

The politicians having interfered and reduced the Civil Service, the workforce is no longer there to deal with these payments. Yours faithfully, CLIVE OSBORNE, Clock makers, Unit 1 R/O Bosworth House, High Street, Thorpe-le-Soken, Essex.

### Raising interest rates to prevent inflation rising is self-defeating

From Mr Sam Jacobs

Sir, To increase interest rates in order to curb inflation is crass and damaging.

The high interest rates over the past few years exacerbated and accelerated the recession and crippled most business concerns and caused a record number of bankruptcies.

It was probably the worst slump and the longest ever. No other European economy fell as low.

Higher rates add to costs, these cannot be absorbed by industry, they are passed to the consumer, higher prices equal inflation.

Higher rates give money to those people who have idle cash, for no contribution to productivity and those idle earnings, if spent, are inflationary.

Higher rates equal higher mortgage costs; less spending

### Choice in First Choice's new travel portfolio

From the Marketing Manager — Freespirit, First Choice Travel Ltd

Sir, We would like to correct one misconception in your interesting Tempus piece (August 17) on the launch of First Choice and our new brand portfolio.

Our innovative new holiday brand "Freespirit" is not just another mass-market budget/youth brand, indeed it has been conceived to appeal as much to 35-year-old couples as under 25-year-old singles. Only one out of the brand's four main products is aimed specifically at the youth market.

Moreover, many Freespirit holidays entail exotic, up-market destinations and accommodation.

The brand's unifying proposition, and what makes it very different from any previous holiday brand, is that its wide range of holiday products are aimed at people who want to holiday without children, plus who share an attitude of mind — a preference for free-and-easy, adventurous and active holidays.

No holiday company has targeted this sector under an integrated, strong brand proposition before.

Yet we estimate the sector could account for up to 40 per cent of the total package holiday market.

Yours faithfully, JILL LONGSON, Marketing Manager, Freespirit, First Choice Travel, Groundstar House, London Road, Crawley, West Sussex.

### World leaders in excuses

From Mr Reg L. Bell

Sir, Messrs J. Dege and M.G. Sutton (Business Letters, September 6 and September 9) should perhaps count themselves fortunate.

Having more faith in them than their bankers, I purchased 23,000 Airship Industry shares back in the eighties. I considered them, and still do, that these lighter than air machines had a future in respect of cameras platforms and aerial surveillance operations.

Based at Cardington, they always seemed to be functioning well under Alan Bond. However, dividends were always passed and then subsequently the firm disappeared without trace. If there is a receiver out there, I would be pleased to hear from him (or her).

I have a similar tale of woe in respect of the parcel of stock that I hold in Chloride, Watford Wedgwood, Oceonics and, coming up gamely but last at the post, British Bloodstock. Year upon year, these companies consistently fail to declare a dividend and never in their annual reports do they express their appreciation of the shareholders' loyalty and support.

If the ingenuity demonstrated in finding excuses for the continual lamentable results were to be directed towards improving their respective performances, then the aforementioned companies might well become world leaders in that which they appear to do so badly.

Yours faithfully, REG L. BELL, 5a Stafford Street, Eccleshall, Stafford.

Letters to the Business section of *The Times* can be sent by fax to 071-782 5112.

## JOHN LEWIS PARTNERSHIP plc

Department stores and Waitrose supermarkets

Consolidated unaudited results for the half year ended 30 July 1994

|   | 1994<br>£m | 1993<br>£m |
|---|------------|------------|
| Sales   | 1187.9     | 1127.4     |
| Trading Profit (before Pensions)  | 49.6       | 37.2       |
| Pension costs   | 8.8        | 8.7        |
| Trading Profit  | 40.8       | 28.5       |
| Interest  | 12.1       | 12.0       |
| Preference dividends  | 0.1        | 0.1        |
| Surplus available for profit sharing and, subject to taxation, for retentions | 28.6       | 16.4       |

Sales increased by £38 million (7%) in the department store division and £22 million (4%) in Waitrose supermarkets.

Profit sharing Allocation between retentions and profit sharing is determined when the results for the year are known.

For further details of the results and/or the John Lewis Partnership, please telephone 071-828 1000 extension 6222 or write to the Chief Information Officer, 171 Victoria Street, London SW1E 5NN.



THE TIMES FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 16 1994

مكذبا من الأصل



# Rally in a bear market

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place ten business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

## BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

| High | Low | Company  | Price | Net | Yld | P/E  |
|------|-----|----------|-------|-----|-----|------|
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |
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| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |

## DRAPERY, STORES

| High | Low | Company  | Price | Net | Yld | P/E  |
|------|-----|----------|-------|-----|-----|------|
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |

## FINANCIAL TRUSTS

| High | Low | Company  | Price | Net | Yld | P/E  |
|------|-----|----------|-------|-----|-----|------|
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |

## FOODS

| High | Low | Company  | Price | Net | Yld | P/E  |
|------|-----|----------|-------|-----|-----|------|
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |

## INSURANCE

| High | Low | Company  | Price | Net | Yld | P/E  |
|------|-----|----------|-------|-----|-----|------|
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |

## LEISURE

| High | Low | Company  | Price | Net | Yld | P/E  |
|------|-----|----------|-------|-----|-----|------|
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |

## PAPER, PRINT, ADVTG

| High | Low | Company  | Price | Net | Yld | P/E  |
|------|-----|----------|-------|-----|-----|------|
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |

## BUILDING, ROADS

| High | Low | Company  | Price | Net | Yld | P/E  |
|------|-----|----------|-------|-----|-----|------|
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |

## ELECTRICALS

| High | Low | Company  | Price | Net | Yld | P/E  |
|------|-----|----------|-------|-----|-----|------|
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |

## HOTELS, CATERERS

| High | Low | Company  | Price | Net | Yld | P/E  |
|------|-----|----------|-------|-----|-----|------|
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |

## INDUSTRIALS

| High | Low | Company  | Price | Net | Yld | P/E  |
|------|-----|----------|-------|-----|-----|------|
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |

## INVESTMENT TRUSTS

| High | Low | Company  | Price | Net | Yld | P/E  |
|------|-----|----------|-------|-----|-----|------|
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |

## Mining

| High | Low | Company  | Price | Net | Yld | P/E  |
|------|-----|----------|-------|-----|-----|------|
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |

## PROPERTY

| High | Low | Company  | Price | Net | Yld | P/E  |
|------|-----|----------|-------|-----|-----|------|
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |

## BUSINESS SERVICES

| High | Low | Company  | Price | Net | Yld | P/E  |
|------|-----|----------|-------|-----|-----|------|
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |

## ELECTRICITY

| High | Low | Company  | Price | Net | Yld | P/E  |
|------|-----|----------|-------|-----|-----|------|
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |

## FINANCE, LAND

| High | Low | Company  | Price | Net | Yld | P/E  |
|------|-----|----------|-------|-----|-----|------|
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |

## SHORTS (under 5 years)

| High | Low | Company  | Price | Net | Yld | P/E  |
|------|-----|----------|-------|-----|-----|------|
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |

## LONGS (over 15 years)

| High | Low | Company  | Price | Net | Yld | P/E  |
|------|-----|----------|-------|-----|-----|------|
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |

## MOTORS, AIRCRAFT

| High | Low | Company  | Price | Net | Yld | P/E  |
|------|-----|----------|-------|-----|-----|------|
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |

## SHOES, LEATHER

| High | Low | Company  | Price | Net | Yld | P/E  |
|------|-----|----------|-------|-----|-----|------|
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |

## TEXTILES

| High | Low | Company  | Price | Net | Yld | P/E  |
|------|-----|----------|-------|-----|-----|------|
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |

## NEWS, PUBLISHERS

| High | Low | Company  | Price | Net | Yld | P/E  |
|------|-----|----------|-------|-----|-----|------|
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |

## TOBACCO

| High | Low | Company  | Price | Net | Yld | P/E  |
|------|-----|----------|-------|-----|-----|------|
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |

## TRANSPORT

| High | Low | Company  | Price | Net | Yld | P/E  |
|------|-----|----------|-------|-----|-----|------|
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |

## OILS, GAS

| High | Low | Company  | Price | Net | Yld | P/E  |
|------|-----|----------|-------|-----|-----|------|
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |

## WATER

| High | Low | Company  | Price | Net | Yld | P/E  |
|------|-----|----------|-------|-----|-----|------|
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |

## CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

| High | Low | Company  | Price | Net | Yld | P/E  |
|------|-----|----------|-------|-----|-----|------|
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |

## BRITISH FUNDS

| High | Low | Company  | Price | Net | Yld | P/E  |
|------|-----|----------|-------|-----|-----|------|
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |
| 34   | 34  | Abn-Amro | 100   | 0   | 4.8 | 15.5 |

## INDEX-RELATED

|                  |      |   |      |      |
|------------------|------|---|------|------|
| Treas II 2% 1996 | 100% | + | 2.79 | 3.05 |
| Treas II 4% 1998 | 105% | + | 1.36 | 1.83 |
| Treas II 2% 2001 | 104% | + | 3.99 | 4.84 |
| Treas II 2% 2003 | 100% | + | 2.50 | 2.84 |
| Treas II 4% 2004 | 108% | + | 3.97 | 3.94 |
| Treas II 2% 2006 | 107% | + | 3.61 | 3.85 |
| Treas II 2% 2009 | 151% | + | 3.84 | 3.85 |
| Treas II 2% 2011 | 150% | + | 3.67 | 3.68 |
| Treas II 2% 2013 | 128% | + | 3.70 | 3.68 |
| Treas II 2% 2016 | 127% | + | 3.74 | 3.89 |
| Treas II 2% 2020 | 131% | + | 3.73 | 3.89 |
| Treas II 2% 2024 | 109% | + | 3.23 | 3.67 |



## INFOTECH

# Programmed to save the earth

Imagine you are the British-based operations director of a multinational chemical company, and the toxic alarm has sounded. The carcinogen benzene has been flooding from a ruptured tank at one of your sites and you need to size up the problem — fast. The local newspaper is on your tail following a tip-off that the local water supply may be threatened. What do you do and, more to the point, can computers provide you with the guidance needed?

A growing number of environmental software products are now coming onto the market. To date, these have tended to be text-based systems, offering specialist staff easy access to the data they need for managing their company's environmental risks.

Such systems might only count the number of benzene drums. One exception is Edge (Environmental Data Graphics), which has been developed in America to put non-technical managers in the picture at the first hint of a problem.

It works on two levels. At its simplest, it is a visual guide to a company's geographical spread, its individual sites and the detailed facilities they contain. Click the mouse once, for example, and you are looking at a map of Europe. Click again and you have the benzene culprit in the North of

**New software may help companies to prevent another Bhopal, reports Nick Cottam**

England, complete with roads, buildings, water sources etc. Next, click on the building in question and you are there at the incident, watching as a plant drawing zooms in on the offending section. Given that a general manager feels comfortable with this type of immediate, visual evidence, he or she can turn their hard-pressed attention span to the second level of Edge: the boxes of integrated data which are presented in relation to the pictures. If your task is to co-ordinate the response to a major chemical spill, you will be able to see at a glance what other chemicals are stored in the vicinity, the plant's normal emission and discharge levels, and what its emergency response procedures are.

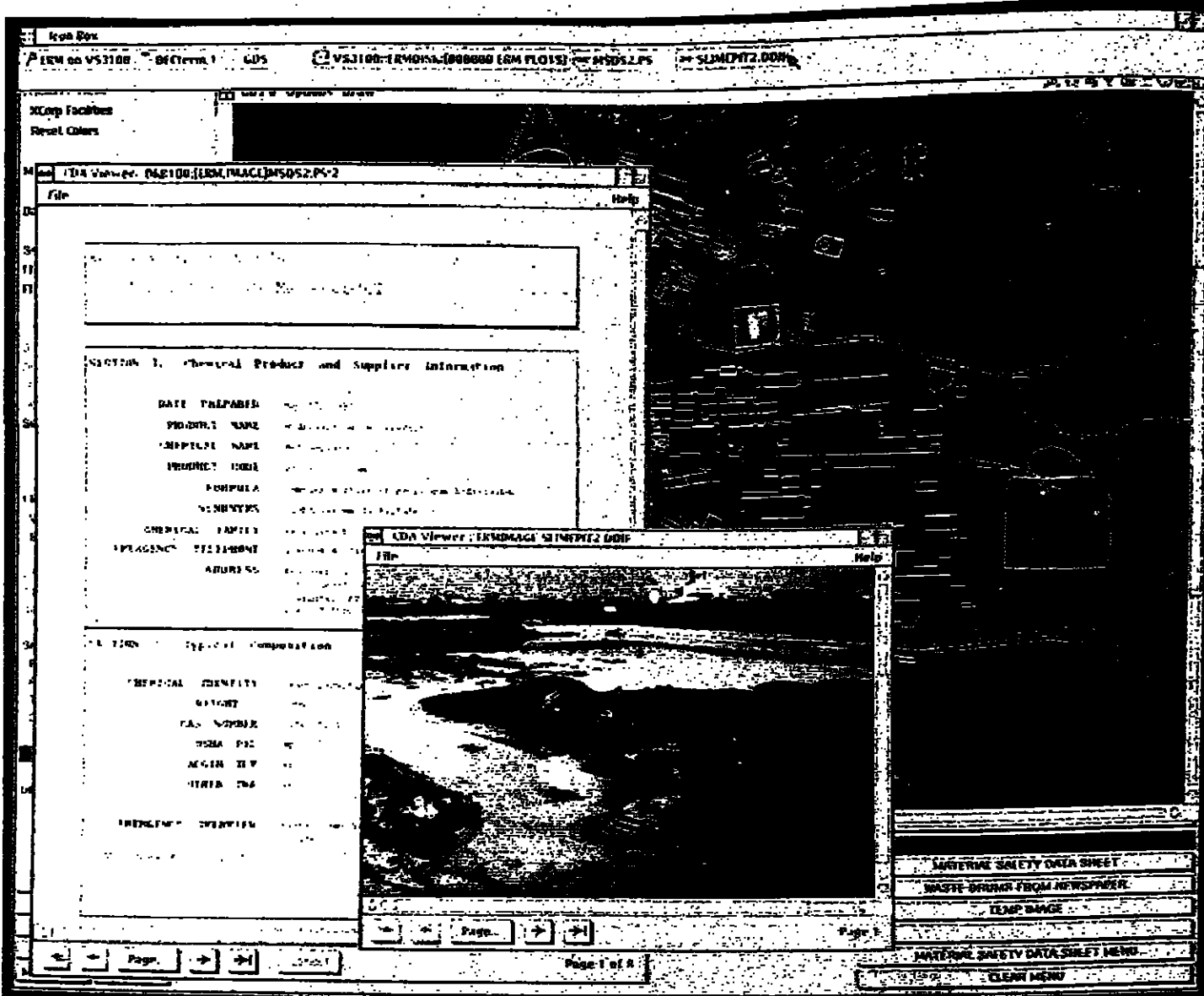
The whole idea is that the user sees the data next to the object on the map. In this way, managers are given rapid access to information in a format they can easily under-

stand," says William Douglas, US-based senior programme director with Environmental Resources Management (ERM), the international environmental consultancy which has developed the product.

Edge, admits Mr Douglas, is not a product for rock-bottom bargain hunters. At \$10-\$20,000 a plant, the system is only likely to appeal to organisations which see environmental risk management as a core element in their long-term survival. Typical buyers are likely to come from the growing band of multi-site blue chip multinationals which are feeling the pressure of more rigorous environmental legislation, and are anxious to avoid a Bhopal-type disaster, which could send their share prices into free fall.

In America, one of the prime reasons for accelerating interest in environmental software has been legislation — laws such as the Toxic Release Inventory, which requires companies to provide detailed information on a whole range of emissions to ensure they remain within absolute limits.

Europe, meanwhile, has been moving fast. More than 250 EU directives covering environmental protection have been introduced over the last 10 years in an emerging culture that requires companies to manage their risks and report regularly.



Chemical company managers can use the Edge program to zoom into toxic spillage sites at plants on the other side of the world

## Showing off to the public

LIVE 94, Britain's biggest consumer electronics show, is on from next Tuesday until Sunday September 25 at Earls Court, London. More than 200 manufacturers will be showing off their latest in technology. Stars include Panasonic's portable computer with a built-in CD-ROM drive, Canon's camcorder that focuses by looking at your eye and Sony's latest miniphone. Advance tickets from London Underground stations, or at the door on the day.

## ONLINE

### Watch radio

SEIKO says it has invested £36 million in forming a new subsidiary, Seiko Communications, to develop their high-speed global wireless network system, expanding it to include devices such as cars, stereos and personal computers.

### Slicing oranges

ORANGE, the mobile phone network, has sliced £100 off the price of its cheapest mobile phone,

bringing it down to £150. The network, which now reaches 65 per cent of the population, aims to reach 90 per cent by the end of next year.

### So much more

A NEW type of 3½ inch floppy disc, developed by Fuji Photo, with a larger memory capacity could become a new standard for recording data in multimedia systems. Each disc can store more than 100 megabytes of information and can be run on existing

personal computers by exchanging the drive system.

## Express information

LOTUS Development expects sales of its Notes software to double this year after the release of a low-cost version this week. Notes Express, a trimmed-down version, costs £77. The Notes communications program is used along with Lotus's electronic mail package to allow computer users to send data and memos to one another. Lotus says that there were 750,000 Notes users at the end of 1993. Estimated figures for this year are 1.5 million.

## HOW IT

THE TIMES is going online from next week with Delphi, Britain's new electronic communications, information and entertainment service, which is also the world's largest provider of consumer access to the Internet.

Along with a daily summary based on news headlines from The Times there will be forum areas for the Infotech, Travel, Media and Marketing and Education pages where readers will be able to discuss issues raised in these sections, exchange information and chat to each other

electronically. Readers will also be able to access a selection of articles.

Delphi, a subsidiary of News International, publisher of The Times, gives subscribers the ability to send and receive electronic mail from around the world and a gateway to the Internet — the global network of thousands of computers with a staggering amount of information available.

To help the Internet users, the Infotech area will include a direct route to a selection of newsgroups that cover related topics from

reviews of CD-Roms to discussions on virtual reality or high-definition television.

There will also be a searching device to help users to find where high-tech information is available over the rest of the Internet. The Delphi service can be accessed by any computer that can be linked to a modem. Windows-based computers already have the basic software to use a modem. Full details on The Times going online and how to join will be announced in The Times Magazine tomorrow.

## BUSINESS UNIT MANAGER

EDI NETWORK SERVICES

The Electronic Commerce business of this fast growing multinational software company is itself growing at more than 30% per year. The company currently enjoys profitable turnover of about £300M, a significant proportion of which is invested in product enhancement and development. The company is sales and marketing led, with quality and customer service at the forefront. In the words of the Chief Executive "We invest in the best - the best people and the best products - and it continues to pay off for our customers and our shareholders".

## BUSINESS UNIT MANAGER

Base £30K-£40K, OTE £50K-£85K, car, usual benefits.

The immediate requirement is for a network specialist with a successful sales record of exceeding targets. If you are now looking to increase your responsibilities by helping to build a new value added network, this could be your opportunity. Reporting to the VP European Network Services, you will need to have the commercial acumen, negotiating skills and sales management experience to build your team and get the 'show on the road'. This position will ultimately carry full P & L responsibility and authority in a company where entrepreneurial flair and empowerment are the name of the game. Previous experience of start-up operations, electronic transaction processing, EDI, EFT, EMail, etc are definite plus points. Working with a team of professionals, you should measure up to the high expectations of management and your colleagues.

If so, please send your CV to Dan Lodge, EPC, 14 Nero Court, Brentford Dock, Brentford, Middlesex, TW8 8QA or fax to 081 847 0578.

Note: The above vacancy is immediate, but growth means that the company is always interested in sales, marketing and technical people who have a successful track record in the I.T. software and services sectors. If you are interested in future positions, please send your CV to the address above.

EPC

TO ADVERTISE  
CALL: 071 481 1066

# INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY



Norbrook is an international pharmaceutical company manufacturing products for 97 countries worldwide. The company has recently been awarded its third Queens Award for Export. The company also manufactures for twelve of the world's largest multinational pharmaceutical companies.

## Pharmaceutical Formulation Manager

to lead an experienced team in the development of a wide range of pharmaceuticals

Following a recently announced £38.4 million expansion a high calibre Formulation Manager is required to head our development team which is part of the 60 strong R & D team. You will be educated to degree level or higher in pharmacy or a chemistry discipline and will have had practical experience in the development, manufacture and scale up of sterile and non-sterile pharmaceuticals. Ideally you should be familiar with GMP and GLP requirements in the industry. The Company offers an attractive employment package, including competitive salary (circa £30K) pension scheme and life assurance.

If you are interested in heading up your own team within a progressive and innovative company, please send your full CV in confidence to the address below.

The closing date for receipt of applications is 23.9.94

**Norbrook**  
Pharmaceuticals Worldwide

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Norbrook Laboratories Limited,  
Station Works, Newry,  
Co. Down, BT36 6JP  
Northern Ireland.

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or send C.V. to:

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## SALES CONSULTANTS

OTE £25/£50K

We are a national group and market leaders in our field. We recruit successful Sales Executives, 20/25 years of age, who need to earn a minimum of £25K p.a. and would rather the opportunity to join our top achievers earning around £50K p.a. Our successful work community with superb Sales Agents, Health Centres, Schools, Colleges and Golf Courses throughout the UK, for 2/3 weeks at a time. During the last 20 years we have built an unrivalled reputation for reliability and performance. Our open-ended commission scheme has excellent bonus features and is available on an equal opportunity basis. Sales professionals of integrity and ability should respond.

NORMAN HAMPEL 0253 783234 (24 HOURS).

## micro muse M

## Help Desk Technician

Salary to £21.7K according to experience

Micromuse PLC, a Sun reseller based in the London area, has a vacancy for an experienced computer help desk technician to assist in the development of tools for help desk environments and other similar functions. In addition, the role would involve providing first line technical support for these and similar products. Previous experience is required. The successful candidate should be able to demonstrate experience and competence in the use of C, Sybase, Oracle and the OpenLook GUI, as well as a familiarity with the Remedy Action Request System.

Application in writing only including full CV to: Richard Whitehead, Technical Manager at Micromuse before 23rd September. Reply to Micromuse PLC, Darnley House, 90 Putney Bridge Road, London SW16 1DA.

CONTINUES ON PAGE 31

## GENERAL MANAGER POWER PROJECTS

- Senior Commercial Role
- Located in Sydney, Australia



Our client is Transfield Projects, the division of the Transfield Group with the mandate to identify and develop opportunities for privately owned and financed power generation projects in Australia and internationally, particularly in Asia-Pacific. The imminent retirement of the incumbent exposes this opportunity within Transfield, which has a record of success in build/own/operate infrastructure developments that is second-to-none.

The challenges are to pro-actively seek major infrastructure opportunities in the power industry and to bring development deals to a stage of closure where they can then be handed over to Transfield's operating divisions. To be successful you will need an intimate knowledge of the vertical structure of the power generation industry and a track record of taking development opportunities through to commercial reality. You will need to be credible at the most senior levels within Government departments and instrumentalities, potential joint venture partners and financial institutions. Most importantly you will have the commercial acumen to prudently

manage all relevant issues in large scale negotiations involving complex regulatory, financial and technical considerations.

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مكتبة من الأصل



Martin Whybrow looks at electronic trading, the direct link between supplier and customer

## Trading goods in the fast lane

The fundamental communications role played by electronic trading in linking suppliers to customers is particularly important when it comes to fresh produce. Thanks to such links, the gap between ordering and delivery is narrowed and produce arrives that much fresher on the supermarket shelves. Ian O'Reilly, director of computing at Tesco, says: "Electronic trading is essential to us. It is all about keeping the shelves full."

Electronic trading is intended to replace communications by paper, telephone and fax between different partners within a trade cycle. This might be for ordering, confirmation, invoicing and payment authorisation between a supplier, its customer, and the relevant bank, plus links to any third party involved, such as freight handlers. The electronic messages are sent over a network and are likely to conform to a set of standards known as Edifact.

The number of companies which have switched into electronic trading has increased steadily. It is used by nearly all large retailers and manufacturers, it has permeated some of the public sector, and most leading banks now offer electronic data interchange (EDI) services. Electronic trading usually means EDI, although it might also encapsulate electronic mail and other on-line links. The system can result in significant savings of cost and time — particularly important within any just-in-time manufacturing or ordering system where goods or components must be replaced as soon as the need arises.

It is also important in business process re-engineering, allowing

companies to hone and improve traditional ways of doing business. This might be in association with other technologies, such as electronic point of sale or bar-coding.

Software suppliers are also slowly coming round to the idea of building electronic-trading facilities into their packaged offerings. Electronic links are also increasingly incorporated into core-processing systems, such as those for central stock management. Electronic messages can be seamlessly generated from within the systems themselves, as is already happening in-house.

The seamless linking of software and EDI has, as EDI becomes more popular, "electronic commerce". This is likely to be very much in vogue at the EDI94 show in Birmingham next month.

In some sectors, EDI has helped significantly to change the business processes over the last ten years, and nowhere is this more apparent than in the food industry. All of the major supermarkets now have large EDI infrastructures in place. Distribution can be centralised and the system enables orders to be placed as close as possible to the time of sale.

Mr O'Reilly says: "Over 95 per cent of our orders are now placed via EDI. We have links with over 13,000 companies, and over 55 per cent of our invoices are now sent electronically." However, electronic trading still has a number of problems. Its potential advantages for large companies dealing with many trading partners are clear, but the benefits for small suppliers are less clear.

For firms dealing with a handful



Ian O'Reilly, director of computing at Tesco, inside one of the food chain's electronic checkout tills

of customers, paper-based systems are still more manageable, and the cost of introducing EDI is harder to justify. However, few suppliers have been able to resist the introduction of EDI if there is pressure from their customers. The message has tended to be: "Trade with us via EDI or not at all."

An additional problem is the nature of many of today's EDI networks. "The three or four main service suppliers are all proprietary and do not tend to interconnect," says Roger Dean, executive director of the European Electronic Messaging Association (EEMA).

Ideally, a user would manage all of their electronic trading links via a single system and interface, whereas at present, if a supplier deals electronically with a number of retailers, they might well have to use different EDI systems for each. "This is very time-consuming and confusing," says Mr Dean.

Difficulties also arise towards the

end of the trade cycle. The hardest element of the electronic trading loop to close remains that of payments. Individual banks offer their own services. These are viewed as a way of attracting corporate business and therefore there has been virtually no co-operation within the banking sector.

And of course, for any one trade there are likely to be two banks involved. Banks send EDI messages between themselves, largely over their own Swift network.

However, linking the supplier to their bank, the supplier's bank to that of the retailer, and the retailer's bank to the retailer itself is still a far from straightforward task.

Despite these hurdles, electronic trading is now well established. John Jenkins, director of corporate affairs at EDI provider, JNS, likens its progress to that of a snowball

gradually rolling down the hill. The initial interest was perhaps slower than many envisaged but it has been gathering pace over the last year or so. In part there has been a knock-on effect, he says. Some of those suppliers who initially adopted EDI, even if they did so reluctantly at first, have in turn been implementing links to their own suppliers.

Electronic trading is now an integral part of the way many companies do business. "The strategic nature of electronic trading means that companies will not survive in the future unless they adopt it," argues Mr Jenkins. As an EDI supplier, he might well say that, but perhaps the evidence backs up the assertion.

EDI 94, an exhibition and conference on electronic trading, is at the International Convention Centre in Birmingham from October 4 to October 6. Further information from Blenheim Online (081-742 2828)

## The White House begins to tune in

President Clinton has given full backing to electronic commerce

Over the past year, the perception of electronic commerce in the information technology industry, in government and in the business community has changed. This is not because of any new revolutionary products, but because the White House has taken a hand.

Vice-President Al Gore has been pushing the benefits of the "electronic superhighway", which has given a boost to those who want to send data around the world, particularly between businesses.

In the past, IT professionals have been happy to build networks within their company, but sending commercial data to other companies has seemed a risky business. The hype about the superhighway, particularly as it comes from the White House, has broken down this barrier.

Add to this the sudden explosion of the linking by Internet of a huge group of computer networks from the academic into the business world, and it has dawned on many IT departments that sending data between trading partners across the Internet could be not only easy but extremely cheap.

Last October, President Clinton gave a further boost to electronic trading when he sent a memorandum from the White House to the heads of all departments in the American Administration instructing them to cut paper and red tape out of the procurement process, by using electronic commerce.

The President also has a social and political agenda and wants to use electronic commerce to "increase competition, by improving access to federal contracting opportunities for the more than 300,000 vendors currently doing business with the government, particularly small businesses".

President Clinton has set short deadline dates. A grand "architecture" of an electronic commerce system for all departments was completed by March this year, and government-wide implementation is planned by

January 1997. The White House action has also infected some European politicians with "electronic superhighway fever". Carl Bildt, the Swedish Prime Minister, likes to correspond with Mr Clinton by electronic mail, and has released government funds for the improvement of the data communications infrastructure.

In Denmark, the Prime Minister's wife, Lone Dubkæ, a Euro MP, is leading a parliamentary committee to recommend what the government should do to create an "Information Society Year 2000" that will put governmental use of electronic commerce high on the political agenda.

In Britain, political reaction has been muted. An initiative to find an "electronic commerce champion" in the Clinton mode among Cabinet ministers elicited interest from William Waldegrave and Michael Portillo, but since then they have been reshuffled.

Efforts start again with their successors, David Hunt and Jonathan Aitken. At a lower level, the EDI Association and the CCTA are organising a seminar to interest senior civil servants in electronic commerce.

In the middle of all this interest in electronic commerce the Trade and Industry Department is carrying out a "root and branch" review of SITPRO, the Simpler Trade Procedures Board.

Sitpro is a DTI agency, which sets EDI standards and has always been one of the main drivers of electronic commerce in Britain. It is largely responsible for the lead which Britain still has over the rest of Europe in EDI for the private sector. To question whether the Government should have a role in promoting electronic commerce at the very moment when governments in America and other countries are climbing on the superhighway bandwagon seems strange timing.

RICHARD SARSON



GED

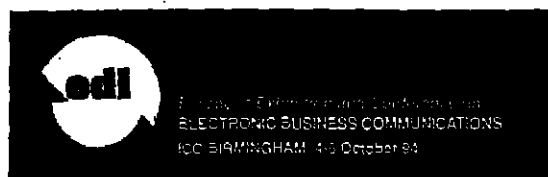


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# A small timer joins the big time

Richard Sarson tells how a small business saved time and improved its competitiveness by switching to electronic data interchange

The small company is often depicted as the loser in electronic trading. If it is told by a large customer to gear itself up to receive orders electronically, it may then have to spend thousands to buy software for electronic trading, a modern and pay subscription costs for an electronic trading network. And if it has no suitable spare PC it may have to buy one. A small business may do all this then find that all it has got for the money is the equivalent of a very expensive fax machine.

Keith Legg, information technology manager of the Ford Component Manufacturing plant in South Shields, Tyne and Wear, has a positive attitude to electronic commerce. His company, which makes gaskets, washers and seals for the engineering industry, has a turnover of less than £5 million, and employs 150 people. But, as early as 1988, when electronic trading was only about three years old, it decided that its big customers — among them British Rail, JCB and British Aerospace — would sooner or later suggest that it take orders electronically.

Ford Component decided to gear up for electronic trading before being pushed. It was already halfway there because for some years it had been paying its staff electronically. It wrote its own message-translation software and signed up with an electronic trading network.

Mr Legg says the initial cost was £1,500, with continuing

costs of about £2,000 a year. He justifies the expense of electronic trading, not on the lower cost of transactions, but on the marketing benefits. "In a world where we are competing against similar products with the same quality and price," he says, "we have to offer something else."

That "something else" is the extra ease of doing business for the customer, as well as for itself. What it can now compete on is not only the price of the washers and gaskets but the "lowest total cost of supply". Mr Legg is trying to persuade the steel stock holders, who are its suppliers, to accept orders electronically.

For the first few years, Mr Legg printed out the electronic orders and re-keyed them into his production control system. He was using electronic data interchange as an expensive

fax, and admits that he used to "feel inadequate" at seminars, when consultants preached that he would not be doing "real EDI" until he could feed the incoming electronic orders straight into his in-house computer system.

At first, he thought the effort of doing this would be enormous but 18 months ago he changed his system, integrated EDI with it and found it easier than expected. His programmers wrote the necessary interfaces in about a fortnight, a task that deters many other small companies, most of which would not even have a computer department to do the work.



Keith Legg, information technology manager, found the changeover easier than expected

Gary Lynch, chief executive of the EDI Association, believes that the high cost and difficulty of integration is the main inhibitor to the spread of electronic commerce. His association and the Tradanet User Group, Britain's biggest EDI user group, have been studying the requirements for

**“In such a competitive world, we have to offer something else”**

a standard that would help any EDI software plug into any suite of accounting or production control software.

Some accounting packages have added electronic trading links but on the whole, until last year, most accounting software houses ignored the potential of EDI. But this is

changing. The Business Software Developers' Association has formed a working party to standardise links and it is expected that in a few years' time, small companies such as Ford Components will go straight into an integrated EDI system, without a phase of using the equipment like an expensive fax. Some firms will always be too small to trade electronically and for these, "hybrid systems" are on offer. Most electronic trading packages offer the user an option to send orders as EDI messages or as faxes.

The Royal Mail has a service called Edipost, in which a big company can send electronic trading messages, not directly to its supplier, but to a Royal Mail computer, which prints, envelopes, stamps and dispatches the orders. Furthermore, a recipient with no computer can acknowledge the

orders electronically by tapping codes on the key pad of his telephone in another Royal Mail system called Response. This could be called computerless electronic commerce and reflects a new realism that electronic trade for very small companies does not necessarily need full electronic computer links between customer and supplier.

The Article Numbering Association was one of the prime movers in launching electronic commerce in the retail industry and the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders did the same for the motor industry.

Chambers of commerce are well briefed on international electronic trade, and the European Commission, which believes that electronic commerce is potentially a "glue" that could hold the single market together, has set up a series of EDI awareness centres throughout Europe.

## Cheaper lines, more cheerful companies

**The network providers are reducing prices to attract more traders**

Increasing competition and interconnection between the growing number of specialist networks that provide electronic data interchange (EDI) services is pushing prices down for companies signing up to trade electronically.

This downward spiral has been accelerated by the move towards simpler forms of electronic trading performed on a desktop PC, rather than on mainframes or minicomputers. Although larger companies may require the security and reliability provided by those EDI networks which offer them full end-to-end audit trails, smaller companies want low-cost options — in many cases, the lowest they can get.

There are answers for them. Last year, BT announced a minimum charge of £10 per month for the smallest electronic traders, which should enable them to send around 25 messages per month.

Other network providers have lowered their costs, which can start from £600 per year. They have also simplified their charging structures.

While Harbinger, a large service provider in the US, has seen enough potential in the market to set up a European operation, alternatives to the established providers are also springing up.

Electronic trading has always been characterised by the formation of user groups, one of the rare instances in which competitors club together to act for the common good. These separate industry groups are now beginning to do their own thing, realising that collectivism brings both bargaining and buying power.

One example of this is EASAS, the electrical appliance service agents system. This was set up to help those who sell and service electronic appliances, such as hairdryers and toasters, to process guarantee claims, order stock and receive payment more efficiently. It costs agents £90 to join the system and £30 per month.

Another industry initiative is the Automotive Transaction Highway funded

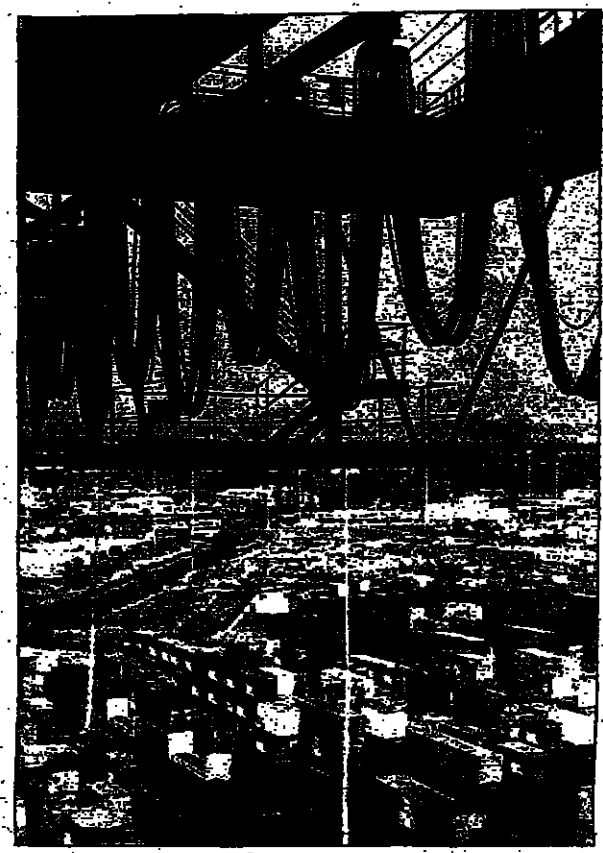
and freight companies know where on board the ship containers are located and what they contain, well in advance of arrival.

Ways of helping smaller users to gain more from their connection may be through offering them connections into other services, such as the register provided by Lloyds Maritime Services, for which they would otherwise have to pay individual subscriptions.

While these are examples of industry initiatives, the Internet is also being considered as yet another low-cost route to electronic trading. Many have doubts about its security since it is made up of a mass of networks with no overall control.

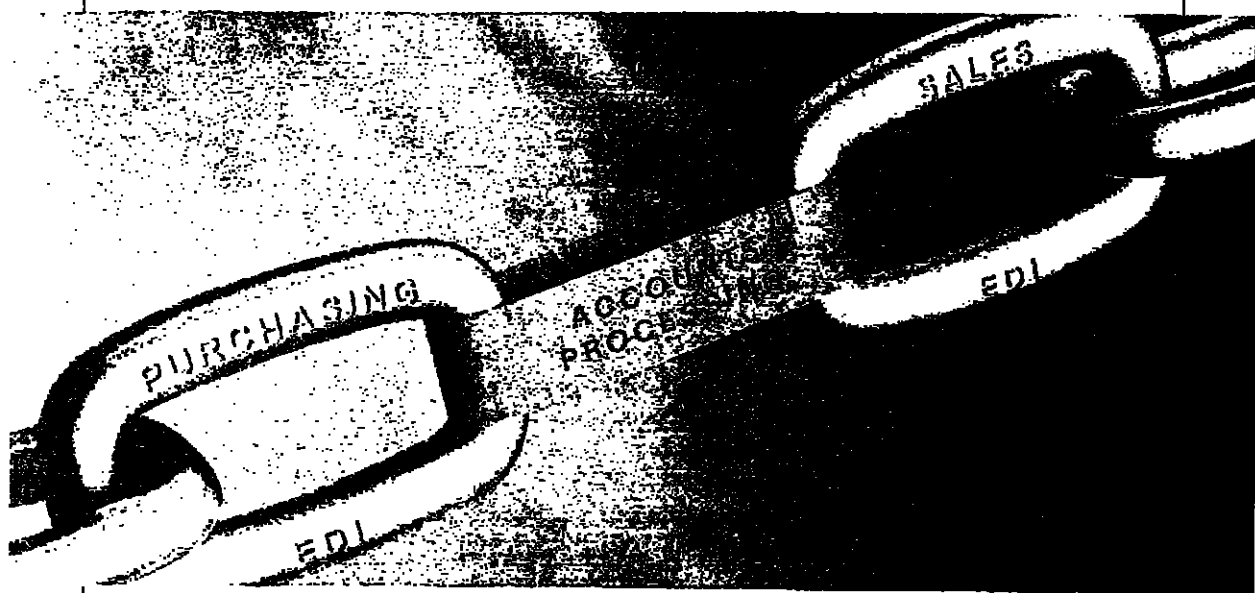
Despite this, Jonathan Fleet, IBM's EDI marketing manager for both the Middle East and Africa, predicts that electronic trading, "in the form we know it, will happen before the end of next year" over the Internet. He expects it to be available from around £20 per month.

JULIA KING



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John Kavanagh on the benefits that can be gained from a closer business integration between supplier, company and customer

Every 30 minutes Calsonic Exhaust Systems delivers directly to Nissan's car production line from a factory near by in Washington, Tyne and Wear. If Calsonic were to hold up production by one minute, it would pay an £8,000 penalty.

Meanwhile radiator and fan units are collected by Nissan from Calsonic Llanelli Radiators more than 300 miles away every four hours, plus or minus ten minutes. Again, the orders have to be ready on time. "Survival in the automotive industry depends increasingly on a company's ability to integrate its business operations and processes with those of its customers and suppliers," says Mike Reilly, president of parent company Calsonic International (Europe).

Electronic data interchange (EDI) is proving to be the key to such integration. Indeed, integration and exclusive business relationships are turning out to be a major reward for suppliers which have been pushed into electronic trading by their big customers.

Some market research now even suggests that the immediate benefits of electronic commerce lie in closer business relationships rather than operational savings, a point underlined by Terry Crichtley, business manager in corporate computing at the Bass brewing and leisure group. "Companies typically enter EDI in response to their customers' prompting," he says. "Our first phase involved electronic trading with our customers in the big take-home market, notably the supermarket chains, which have been leaders in the field."

"We started by exchanging orders and invoices and some of the relationships matured very quickly, for example, Tesco and Britvic are sharing forecasts through EDI and enjoying a much closer business relationship as a result."

"We have had small headcount reductions but the real benefit has been not only retention of business but also the achievement of preferred supplier status and closer relationships with major chains."

Tesco, an EDI pioneer in the mid-1980s, has alliance-building down to a fine art. Data from supermarket check-out systems has enabled it to reorganise its distribution to the benefit of all concerned. Suppliers now deliver to eight regional warehouses instead of directly to hundreds of supermarkets. This means the

## Supply line survival guide



John Lawson, Calsonic's information systems manager, who compiled an EDI manual to help suppliers, in the factory with radiators for Nissan cars

supermarkets only need minimal stocks, so they can devote more space to sales. Deliveries are reduced to a minimum, as all goods come from one Tesco warehouse. All quality and quantity checking is done at the warehouses rather than at individual stores.

Tesco's suppliers benefit by getting one order for each warehouse rather than separate orders from hundreds of stores.

The savings in their distribution costs give Tesco the opportunity to negotiate better terms.

Such relationships go beyond the electronic exchange of orders and invoices. For example, Tesco sends electronic forecasts of up to 13 weeks, by product and by warehouse, to 300 suppliers.

Calsonic Llanelli Radiators gives some of its suppliers firm forecasts for five days

and projections for the next 26 weeks. Some of Calsonic's customers offer six-month contracts, with the first three months' orders firmly agreed.

"Supplier schedules are sent directly to our suppliers from the schedules we agree with our customers," says John Lawson, information systems manager, at Calsonic. "Therefore, we now have suppliers delivering directly to our production

lines for some components, just as we do line-side delivery to Nissan."

In addition, Calsonic has set up an informal association for its suppliers, which meets regularly to discuss trends, future business and other issues. This arrangement is similar to one set up by Nissan, which extends the meetings not only to its suppliers, such as Calsonic, but also to Calsonic's suppliers, so that

everyone down the supply chain is involved in the end-customer's business. Such involvement is vital: Calsonic has long contracts with some customers involving 3 per cent annual price cuts.

Calsonic was initially driven into electronic trading by its customers but it is now an advanced user, receiving orders, invoices, forecasts, schedules and delivery instructions. In addition, it has self-billing arrangements with some customers and suppliers: payments are calculated and made without waiting for invoices.

"Some of our suppliers are a little behind in their use of computing, let alone EDI," Mr Lawson says. "Orders sent from our systems via EDI are sometimes received as faxes."

Mr Lawson has gone to the lengths of putting together a slim manual on EDI to help Calsonic's suppliers to move into electronic trading. He understands the need: little over four years ago the company was using a computer system unchanged in 10 years. It then moved to manufacturing cells and team working, a flattening of the hierarchy to four levels from top to bottom, a more open style of management, and a policy of continuous improvement of at least 6 per cent a year. This major business change brought a total review of the old information systems — a vital task when considering electronic trading, according to market researcher Cambridge Market Intelligence.

The firm's EDI report says that "any organisation considering EDI must get its internal information technology into shape first". It continues: "There is little point in speeding up the flow of information if the contents of the messages leaving the organisation are unreliable or if messages received from outside cannot be processed easily. Some companies have found that they cannot move beyond the most basic message types, because their systems cannot handle them."

This applies especially to companies seeking the types of relationships which get them closely involved in their customers' and suppliers' businesses. By the end of this year integration up and down Calsonic's supply chain will have cut finished-product inventory at Llanelli to four hours — little more than the time it takes to make a radiator and fan unit.

## Cost of making life simpler

Logically, an important part of electronic trading should be the inclusion of electronic payment. Although banks have been offering financial electronic trading for some years now, until this year there had been few takers, owing to the cost and the conservatism of corporate treasurers. Now, say the banks, interest is picking up.

What exactly is financial electronic trading? First, an extended payment order, with an electronic remittance advice and payment instructions, is sent by the purchasing company to their bank. Funds are then moved to the supplier's bank, their account is credited and an extended credit advice is sent to them.

But there appears to be a lack of enthusiasm in this area of electronic trading. According to Ian Finch, director of the London consultancy PFA. "We run electronic trading research across a panel of over 1,000 users and planners. Usage of more basic forms of electronic payments in Britain is at a healthy level compared with countries such as America, but we have not yet seen evidence of an increase in financial electronic trading."

One problem, says Mr Finch, is the need to sort out who bears the cost of financial electronic trading. As bills are paid by customers, they bear the cost of paying electronically. Yet, they would argue, most of the benefits of paying in this way go to the supplier.

Tim Earles, senior manager of Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) at Barclays Bank, says that there are 40 large organisations using financial electronic trading in Britain. "Some 1,500 companies, 15 per cent of the UK's corporates, account for 65 per cent of all payments in the UK today by cheque and through BACS (Bankers Automated Clearing Scheme). So a small swing to financial electronic trading would account for a

Frank Booty looks at why electronic payment has been slow to catch on



Peter Garlick, Peugeot UK's banking manager

huge swing in the volume of transactions."

Barclays Bank is a leader in financial electronic trading, closely followed by National Westminster. Peugeot UK is a pioneer user. It ran a pilot scheme with Barclays and part of the Lucas Group, a Peugeot supplier.

Peter Garlick, Peugeot's banking manager, says that

the company is going to convert suppliers to Barclays financial electronic trading. According to Peter Skeggs, group treasurer for Lucas, his company makes more financial electronic trading transactions than anyone else in Britain — up to 300 transactions a month.

BACS can be used as part of an electronics payments ap-

proach: it transmits a payment amount with a reference number while the purchaser sends the electronic remittance advice separately, via a value added network.

Normally, the supplier's task is to match the payment and the remittance advice, based on the credit advice or statement. With financial electronic trading the two arrive together, cutting out the need for this.

The power to instigate electronic trading rests firmly with the customer, particularly in the retail and automotive sectors with such companies as Tesco and Ford. But will the customer volunteer to spend more money on electronic payments to the benefit of suppliers?

The cost of sending a payment by BACS is 20p or less, while via financial electronic trading it can be well over £1. "The cost difference between financial electronic trading and BACS is not seen by companies to be offset by sufficient added value," Mr Finch says.

"Yet the banks are so far seen as unwilling to invest more or reduce prices until they have a return on their significant investment," he says.

Adrian Stafford-Jones, of Albany Software, a BACS and electronic trading software company, says: "An average electronic trading transaction contains 70 times as much data as a BACS message. Customers today are looking for a one-channel solution. This is in financial electronic trading's favour. Users with existing electronic trading applications need only add one module rather than having to purchase another package."

Mr Earles is convinced that by 2005 financial electronic trading will dominate. "All banks will offer it, corporates will want to use it and there will be access for the smaller companies," he predicts.

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## MUSIC page 34

Winning hands? In London the world's finest young pianists engage in combat

## ARTS

## OPERA page 34

Tosca launches the new ENO season at the Coliseum, but not with a night to remember



POP ON FRIDAY: Traffic on the road again ... Sinéad O'Connor sounds off ... and (right) Mercury heads Brits-wards

# The mellow spark of high heeled boys

Traffic - now there's a, like, heavy 1960s name. The bad news is there are only two of them these days. The good news is they are back. Paul Sexton reports

I was especially perverse, even by the standards of a fickle industry. One of the few artists to emerge with lasting credibility from the new wave of the late 1970s, that purge of all music quasi-conceptual, had come up with an album that sounded uncannily like one of the very groups he was once supposed to be denouncing, and it had won him the most widespread praise of his career.

Paul Weller's *Wild Wood*, so nearly this year's Mercury Music Prize winner, sounded like a testament to Traffic, those archetypally "serious" album artists of 1967 to 1974.

The rich irony was not lost on Steve Winwood, child genius of the 1960s, one of rock's great voices and leader of Traffic. "Punk rock was down on Traffic's kind of thing," he says. "because punk was a very a-musical form. But, oddly enough, people like Paul came out of punk. I don't claim to understand it, but fashions do go round."

And so do venerable bands, as this summer's American money-spinning tours by the Eagles, Pink Floyd and the

Rolling Stones demonstrated. Traffic spent the summer touring America in support of *Far From Home*, their first studio album in 20 years, on which Winwood and fellow founder member, drummer Jim Capaldi, decided that the time was right to bring back lengthy tracks such as "The Low Spark Of High Heeled Boys".

Winwood and Weller have spoken about the former Jam leader's enthusiasm for the earlier incarnation of the band. "I called Paul and said, 'What do you think of our new album?'" Winwood says. "He said: 'Oh, it's all right, but I like the old stuff. It's difficult, because time, as well as being the great healer, also has an effect on whether something is an influence or not.'"

Next week, as they begin their British dates, Winwood and Capaldi will find out whether their 1994 audience in

this country consists of inquisitive Weller acolytes or grizzled veterans of "Dear Mr Fantasy" and "Forty Thousand Headmen", first time around. "Just because a certain music was alive 20 years ago, it doesn't mean it has to be

There's enough bad new music, so there must be some good old stuff

nostalgia now. It can still be good music," Winwood says. "I think music and rock'n'roll are coming apart a little bit. The culture of rock'n'roll is very instantaneous, immediate: it's something that's here today, gone tomorrow. But I think Traffic have always been more of a music band than rock'n'roll. Obviously we're in the rock'n'roll medium - if you play electric guitar and Hammond organ and drums, you get lumped in. But the difference between the two - rock and music - is becoming more apparent. That's why these old bands are coming

up, because people say, 'Either it's good music or it's bad music'. There's enough new music around which is bad, so there must be some old stuff around which is good."

In America, few fashion considerations enter the question. The inquiring minds of music listeners there, and the crucial added ingredient of classic rock radio, have kept warm the memories of the band's first incarnation, which began with Winwood leaving the Spencer Davis Group at the peak of its success in 1967 to join forces with Capaldi, Chris Wood and Dave Mason, and ended several line-up changes and several million record sales later at the 1974 Reading Festival.

Traffic's recent American dates included a number on which they guested with those even more venerable war-horses, the Grateful Dead. The 25th anniversary Woodstock was also on the itinerary. But at the delightful Saratoga Performing Arts Center in New York, the band played for an audience that looked like members of the Woodstock generation and their sons and daughters: the twin aromas of dope and popcorn filled the evening air, the deckchairs and beach blankets covered the arena, and a roar of recognition greeted "Medicated Zoo", "Empty Pages" and all the other old soldiers.

Capaldi, a grizzled 50, and Winwood, an absurdly youthful 46, have remained close since Traffic came to a halt. Indeed, Capaldi was on hand for some of Winwood's solo superstardom in the second



The ever-lovely and talented Jim Capaldi (left) and Steve Winwood, living proof of the old adage that rock bands never die, they just wait to become fashionable again, and re-form

half of the 1980s, writing songs with him for 1988's *Roll With It*, when he was still basking in his triple-Grammy success with *Back In The High Life*. Last year, they decided that

a revival of the band name could withstand the loss of Wood, whose sax and flute playing had helped give the original band its inter-cultural

eclecticism, and who had died of liver failure in 1983. But the presence of Traffic's other original member, Dave Mason (now with Fleetwood Mac), was never an issue.

"The media thumbprint of Traffic was always me and Steve," Capaldi says. "Dave left so long ago, he was gone by 1968." He never played on our most popular albums," Winwood adds. "Traffic was Traffic without Dave for a year, piece - Jim, Chris and me - and we added different people for the different chapters."

Sadly, Wood's place is taken on *Far From Home* by a series of synthesizer samples. On the road, Randall Bramblett fills the space, and bassist Rosko Gee, a veteran of the last part of Traffic Phase One, is also back in the fold.

But Mason's contribution to the band's early output leaves them with a certain nervousness about the British shows, thanks to the millstone of "Hole In My Shoe", the hit single that, in a curious way, remains their calling card in this country.

"It was the point at which Dave left the band," Winwood says. "It was his song, and we didn't feel it was what we wanted Traffic to be at all."

"We probably should have burnt it at birth and said 'Sorry Dave, we're not doing it,'" Capaldi adds with the benefit of hindsight.

● Traffic are at London Hammer-smith Apollo on Tuesday, Birmingham Royal Concert Hall (Sept 24), Manchester Apollo (Sept 25) and Birmingham Symphony Hall (Sept 29). The album *Far From Home* and single "Some Kinda Woman" are released by Virgin

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## From a whisper to a scream

SINÉAD O'CONNOR  
*Universal Mother*  
(Ensign 8 30549)

HAVING chronicled the misery of her dysfunctional family life in interview and song for many years, Sinéad O'Connor casts the net a lot wider on *Universal Mother*, embracing the distress of her entire island nation - "I see the Irish/As a race like a child/That got itself bashed in the face" - and, indeed, on "All Babies", the pain of each individual the whole world over.

Such is her appetite for hymning this endless cycle of suffering, and so sparse and intense her delivery of songs such as "Scorn No His Simplicity" (written by Phil Coulter), "In This Heart" and "Tiny Grief Song" (the latter pair performed a cappella), that the album ultimately assumes a pseudo-religious dimension. Her singing ranges from a little-girl-lost whisper, as on a peculiarly affecting version of Kurt Cobain's "All Apologies" (and why on earth shouldn't she record one of his songs?), to the tortured wail of the opening track "Fire On Babylon", a song which might best be described as a musical approximation of Munch's painting *The Scream*.

But her best shot on this rather exhausting collection is "Famine", a rap about the Irish potato famine of 1845-47 (which she insists never really happened, hence the extra set of inverted commas around the title), intercut with snatches from the chorus of the Beatles' "Eleanor Rigby". "We're suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder," she proclaims against a grumbling hip-hop bass riff. Well, it's one way of breaking free of the old moon/june routine.

BOYZ II MEN

(Motown 530 431)  
BOYZ II Men are one of those groups that have become so staggeringly successful so quickly that their record company blurb simply lets the

NEW ALBUMS: Death, doom and despair - it can only be another Sinéad O'Connor collection of loathe songs

statistics do the talking: "best selling R&B act of all time"; average age 20; "End Of The Road" the longest-running US No 1 single since the chart began; sales of debut album, *Cooleyhighharmony*, seven million plus; Grammy, Narm, NAACP awards...

What this litany of achievements fails to convey is the unusual warmth of the group's creamy, modern soul sound. From the unaccompanied, barbershop harmony routines of "Thank You" and the Lennon/McCartney standard "Yesterday", to conventional soul ballads such as "On Bended Knee" and the current US No 1 "I'll Make Love To You", they combine superlative vocal technique with an old-fashioned elegance and poise.

Essentially the black American equivalent of Take That, Boyz II Men are nevertheless plugged into a weight of musical tradition that goes far beyond pop, and, once again, it shows. You should like it II.

VARIOUS ARTISTS  
*If I Were A Carpenter*  
(A&M 540 258)

A HIGHLY suspect exercise in pop revisionism, *If I Were A Carpenter* is a collection of songs made famous by squeaky-clean 1970s pop icons the Carpenters as reinterpreted by various modern rock acts with vaguely "alternative" credentials. Ostensibly a "tribute" to the sibling duo, the album has a faint but persistently knowing air of condescension about it.

The performances divide between the faithful (the Cranberries, Sheryl Crow, Matthew Sweet), the eccentric (Sonic Youth, Bettie Serveert, Cracker) and the incompetent (American Music Club, Shonen Knife, Redd Kross, Babes In Toyland), but the underlying assumption that

these ineffably twee pop songs are now to be considered the height of retro-cool smacks of blatant insincerity. As a study in self-consciously manufactured kitsch the album could hardly be bettered. But, honestly, what a bunch of posers.

ROBERT PALMER

*Honey*  
(EMI 8 30301)  
AFTER a series of indifferent albums culminating in 1992's

*Ridin' High*, an ill-advised homage to the music of the big band era, *Honey* marks a welcome return to form for Robert Palmer. It begins with an engaging snatch of African-inspired rhythmic interplay which sets the tone for the sprightly high-life strut of "Honey B".

Progressing through the sensual electro-funk of "No-body But You" and a smoky soul ballad, "Love Takes

Time", the album arrives, by degrees, at a series of increasingly weighty rockers beginning with "You Blow Me Away", one of several tales about men whose fortunes depend on the love of a good woman.

By the time it reaches "Girl U Want" - the single which was laughably banished from certain radio station playlists because of its allegedly "sexist" lyric - and "Wham Bam Boogie" (which seems unlikely to fare much better), Palmer is in full and impressive flow.

DAVID SINCLAIR

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| TOP TEN ALBUMS                     |                            |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 From The Cradle                  | Eric Clapton (Duck)        |
| 2 The 3 Tenors In Concert, 1994    | Pavarotti etc (Teldec)     |
| 3 Definitely Maybe                 | Oasis (Creation)           |
| 4 End Of Part One (Greatest Hits)  | Wet Wet Wet (Prolusion)    |
| 5 Parklife                         | Blur (Food)                |
| 6 Twelve Deadly Cyns               | Cyndi Lauper (Epic)        |
| 7 The Essential Collection         | Elvis Presley (RCA)        |
| 8 Disco 2                          | Pet Shop Boys (Parlophone) |
| 9 Live Wood                        | Paul Weller (Go! Discs)    |
| 10 Music For The Jilted Generation | Prodigy (XL)               |

Compiled by NME





What do disco darlings M People (left) have that indie heroes Blur do not? Besides the Mercury Music Prize for Best Album of the Year, that is?

## Elegant slumming now a low dive

Graham from Blur (full name) made an apologetic sound, rolled his eyes and pushed a table over, sending half-a-dozen wine glasses and a bottle of champagne crashing to the floor in a mist of champagne rain. The only response came from someone from his record company, who, standing at the bar, shouted: "Graham, do you want a single or a double?"

"Get me a put with a bloody straw in it," Graham bellowed back. "I want to drink until I can't see."

The 1994 Mercury Music Prize after-show party on Wednesday night had a bizarre atmosphere. The room was, as usual, draped with pop stars getting liver-rotting drunk and press officers pulling helium balloons off the ceiling, inhaling the contents and talking like Minnie Mouse, but the expected jubilation was almost non-existent. People were having a good time, but not in the usual, almost hysterical awards-ceremony way. Pop stars are actually surprisingly magnanimous and good-natured about losing competitions, and can usually be seen hugging the winner at the bar, getting rounds in, and talking about duetting on a charity single in aid of elderly dementia sufferers or something.

But this year's Mercury ceremony had Graham from Blur pushing over tables, and Jarvis Cocker from Pulp sipping smuggled cherry brandy from the bottle lid and looking rather miserable. The reason? Because, in only the third ever Mercury competition, the original ethos behind the awards seems to have been forgotten.

The Mercury Music Prize was intended to reward and foster innovation. For a couple of years, all went well - and then M People came along and shot the whole thing down in flames

The awards were established to reward innovation, forward thinking and the goggle-eyed fiends who stare into the giddy soup of rock'n'roll oblivion on our behalf. Primal Scream won the first award in 1992 for *Screamadelica*, a superlative album that raised the stakes dramatically for other bands. *Screamadelica* was responsible for a big push and a leap forward within the music industry, and other bands ran to catch up. The album was also the first step for a lot of rather staid music-loving kids into house, dance, jungle, techno and ambient music.

At the inaugural ceremony, Primal Scream were presented with a cheque for £20,000, which was collected by a leather-clad biker and lost 20 minutes later as the party got more interesting. After the annual farago that is the Brits, it was heartening actually to be surprised and delighted when the name of the winner was read out, rather than have to witness a series of dreary, potato-faced nominees, all of whom you loathed, and having to back Kate Bush by default.

Last year, Suede's eponymous album won, reflecting a groundswell of support for brilliant, slightly twisted pop music that put image and a slight frisson of perversion back on the agenda. It was a slightly obvious choice, but not obvious enough for the Brits (the most talked-about band in Britain was not nominated in a single category). Again, the Mercury Music Prize seemed to be a forward-thinking, genuinely cool award.

But this year, out of some brilliant nominations - including Blur's *Parklife*, the Prodigy's *Murder of the Soft Center*, the Sugababes' *One Hit Wonder*, the Verve's *Urban Hymns* and the Take That's *Everything Changes* - the not-fancied-very-much-at-all M People album *Elegant Slumming* picked up the apparently ugly trophy for Best Album of 1994, and blew the Mercury's cool in ten seconds flat.

The reaction in the press room as the winner was announced was one of drunken disbelief. Some journalists started laughing. Others urged their colleagues to join them in heckling at

the press conference. Three went home, struggling six bottles of wine out in their handbags.

It is not simply that it was so obvious that either Blur or Pulp should have won - although they should have - but that M People do not make the kind of music that should win an award that has, so far, stood for innovation.

M People produce competent, glossy records ideal as background music for chi-chi dinner parties or for dancing to, rather badly, in discos. Their music is described as "handbag techno" - rather bland, but fantastically well-produced. Perhaps the judges were hit by a mission to save us all from crackle, hiss and distortion.

In a decade when it is harder than ever for left-field pop music to find record deals, press, radio play, television exposure and awards, something like the Mercury Prize was and is a valuable platform; a way of demonstrating to slightly nervous A&R men that signing wayward talent will pay, and that the record company can only profit, both financially and in terms of its reputation and credibility.

The choice of *Elegant Slumming* as Album of the Year sends signals to record companies that can only, in the end, damage and erode British pop music. "Play safe, keep things populist, dull and simple," the message will be read. "Fear weird men in strange clothes who make bizarre sounds with their guitars. Women with hairdos that look like they've got a pineapple on their head are the business, mate."

One hopes things will be slightly cheerier next year.



CAITLIN MORAN

*Troublemaker*, Paul Weller's *Wild Wood* and Take That's *Everything Changes* - the not-fancied-very-much-at-all M People album *Elegant Slumming* picked up the apparently ugly trophy for Best Album of 1994, and blew the Mercury's cool in ten seconds flat.

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For people stuck in moan mode, impervious to the richness of music currently filed under pop, some advice: things may not be what they used to be, but "Timeless" by Metalheads is a clear, strong sign that the changes are positive.

A 22-minute epic of a single, "Timeless" explores the idea that one piece of music can be transformed over its length to cater for complex, shifting moods. The song's 29-year-old creator is a man with dyed white hair who calls himself Goldie. Of

## Goldie's precious mettle

course, recording under the name of Metalheads could cause confusion, since the first image that springs to mind is of a death metal band from Walsall in Miami. He was born in the former and resided briefly in the latter, so both of these very different urban conglomerates are familiar to Goldie, but in

musical terms he is on another planet. Having been grabbed from the fertile independent scene by London Records, Goldie now has the budget to explore the furthest regions of a music now tagged with the ridiculous oxymoron of ambient jungle. Quite the most fashionable sound on the

mentary about young graffiti artists in England and New York. Goldie was one of the subjects. America called him, as this was where hip-hop and graffiti culture flourished.

Eventually he returned to London to find his *métier* in the frenetic beats of jungle. But Goldie's vision is too broad to be constrained by genre categories and passing fads. Not to put too fine a point on it, "Timeless" is timeless.

DAVID TOOP

### LONDON

**THE CHILDREN'S HOUR** First night of the play by Jane Marder and Mark Fisher at the Royal Court Theatre. A play about a young girl who is taken to a psychiatric hospital and the impact it has on her family. (Royal Court Theatre, 11 St Martin's Lane, London WC2N 4DF. Tel: 01-477 9121. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, Sun 2.30pm, 7.30pm.)

**RACING DEMON** A play by David Hare at the Royal Court Theatre. A play about a young man who is taken to a psychiatric hospital and the impact it has on his family. (Royal Court Theatre, 11 St Martin's Lane, London WC2N 4DF. Tel: 01-477 9121. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, Sun 2.30pm, 7.30pm.)

**LAS ENALADAS** A play by Philip Miller at the Royal Court Theatre. A play about a young man who is taken to a psychiatric hospital and the impact it has on his family. (Royal Court Theatre, 11 St Martin's Lane, London WC2N 4DF. Tel: 01-477 9121. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, Sun 2.30pm, 7.30pm.)

**VOICES IN HARMONY** A play by David Hare at the Royal Court Theatre. A play about a young man who is taken to a psychiatric hospital and the impact it has on his family. (Royal Court Theatre, 11 St Martin's Lane, London WC2N 4DF. Tel: 01-477 9121. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, Sun 2.30pm, 7.30pm.)

**THE BARRIS** A play by David Hare at the Royal Court Theatre. A play about a young man who is taken to a psychiatric hospital and the impact it has on his family. (Royal Court Theatre, 11 St Martin's Lane, London WC2N 4DF. Tel: 01-477 9121. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, Sun 2.30pm, 7.30pm.)

**STEVEN BERKOFF DOUBLES** A play by David Hare at the Royal Court Theatre. A play about a young man who is taken to a psychiatric hospital and the impact it has on his family. (Royal Court Theatre, 11 St Martin's Lane, London WC2N 4DF. Tel: 01-477 9121. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, Sun 2.30pm, 7.30pm.)

**DESIGN FOR LIVING** A play by David Hare at the Royal Court Theatre. A play about a young man who is taken to a psychiatric hospital and the impact it has on his family. (Royal Court Theatre, 11 St Martin's Lane, London WC2N 4DF. Tel: 01-477 9121. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, Sun 2.30pm, 7.30pm.)

**JOKING APART** A play by David Hare at the Royal Court Theatre. A play about a young man who is taken to a psychiatric hospital and the impact it has on his family. (Royal Court Theatre, 11 St Martin's Lane, London WC2N 4DF. Tel: 01-477 9121. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, Sun 2.30pm, 7.30pm.)

**LET THERE BE LOVE** A play by David Hare at the Royal Court Theatre. A play about a young man who is taken to a psychiatric hospital and the impact it has on his family. (Royal Court Theatre, 11 St Martin's Lane, London WC2N 4DF. Tel: 01-477 9121. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, Sun 2.30pm, 7.30pm.)

**THE PICTURE OF DORIAN GRAY** A play by David Hare at the Royal Court Theatre. A play about a young man who is taken to a psychiatric hospital and the impact it has on his family. (Royal Court Theatre, 11 St Martin's Lane, London WC2N 4DF. Tel: 01-477 9121. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, Sun 2.30pm, 7.30pm.)

**CLEAR AND PRESENT DANGER** A play by David Hare at the Royal Court Theatre. A play about a young man who is taken to a psychiatric hospital and the impact it has on his family. (Royal Court Theatre, 11 St Martin's Lane, London WC2N 4DF. Tel: 01-477 9121. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, Sun 2.30pm, 7.30pm.)

**DAZZLED AND CONFUSED** A play by David Hare at the Royal Court Theatre. A play about a young man who is taken to a psychiatric hospital and the impact it has on his family. (Royal Court Theatre, 11 St Martin's Lane, London WC2N 4DF. Tel: 01-477 9121. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, Sun 2.30pm, 7.30pm.)

**SMOKING/NO SMOKING** A play by David Hare at the Royal Court Theatre. A play about a young man who is taken to a psychiatric hospital and the impact it has on his family. (Royal Court Theatre, 11 St Martin's Lane, London WC2N 4DF. Tel: 01-477 9121. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, Sun 2.30pm, 7.30pm.)

**ONCE ON THIS ISLAND** A play by David Hare at the Royal Court Theatre. A play about a young man who is taken to a psychiatric hospital and the impact it has on his family. (Royal Court Theatre, 11 St Martin's Lane, London WC2N 4DF. Tel: 01-477 9121. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, Sun 2.30pm, 7.30pm.)

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### WEEKEND CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kris Anderson

**BARCELONA** 3rd Street, ECG 011-436 5811. Tomorrow 7.30pm.

**ELSEWHERE** **GLASGOW** Scottish Ballet's *Swan Lake* at the Glasgow Royal Opera House. A production by the Scottish Ballet. (Glasgow Royal Opera House, 100 Victoria Road, Glasgow G2 7EX. Tel: 0141 226 2222. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, Sun 2.30pm, 7.30pm.)

**MANCHESTER** Laurie R. King's *The Girl on the Train* at the Manchester Royal Exchange. A production by the Manchester Royal Exchange. (Manchester Royal Exchange, 100 Victoria Road, Manchester M2 1WJ. Tel: 0161 275 4544. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, Sun 2.30pm, 7.30pm.)

**LIVERPOOL** Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Oklahoma!* at the Liverpool Royal Opera House. A production by the Liverpool Royal Opera House. (Liverpool Royal Opera House, 100 Victoria Road, Liverpool L2 1WJ. Tel: 0151 275 4544. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, Sun 2.30pm, 7.30pm.)

**THEATRE GUIDE** Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London. (Theatre Guide, 100 Victoria Road, London WC2N 4DF. Tel: 01-477 9121. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, Sun 2.30pm, 7.30pm.)

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**THE WINDLASS BOY** A play by David



# These hands are made for winning

The world's top young pianists are in London to compete against each other. Simon Tait asks them if they enjoy it

There is a certain ecstasy for the audience at the Purcell Room in London this evening. For all that anybody knows at this stage, they might be watching a new Rubinstein, a Brendel or an Ashkenazy. But for the young competitors in the two-week National Power World Piano Competition, it is mostly agony.

"It's an evil we have to go through," said Rustem Hairudinov from Kazan in Russia. At 26, he is something of a war-weary veteran of competitions. "We have to do something we hate. We have to go through such pain, such stress. The people that don't have a strong enough nervous system can't take it. I've asked jury

Why, if the experience is awful and the juries whimsical, do pianists bother?

form. Half of them will get through to the semi-final next weekend. In the grand final on September 27, the beauty contest will be whittled down to just three, each of whom will give a 50-minute concerto. They will have had to prepare two concertos to offer the judges. A doddle it isn't.

Who decides? A jury of 11 which, says the founder and artistic controller of the competition, Sulamita Aronovsky, has been carefully constructed in awareness of criticism: too many can mean jurors leaving decisions to colleagues; too few can encourage strong personalities to be overbearing.

But why, if the experience is so awful and the juries so whimsical, do these youngsters bother? This is 18-year-old Ron

Regev's first international competition, suggested to him by his professor at Tel Aviv's Rubin Academy of Music. "Playing in a London competition is better than at home because you are not seeing the same faces again, the atmosphere is different, the field is wider. It's like shifting a gear — I am

actually playing better because the atmosphere here is so stimulating."

Most important for them is the rare opportunity to give concert performances. Tamara-Anna Cislowska from Sydney gave her debut performance at the age of three. By six she had given her first Mozart concerto in public. She has toured in Europe, Japan and America, and won several Australian competitions. But at 17 she is still too young for some of the big competitions: "You need to compete in order to become known," she says. "Competition juries have a reputation for being fickle. But I think that if you have talent it will come out in the end."

Ten years older, Jeanette Owens from Los Angeles has just finished at the Royal College of Music and is making her base in London. "What I hate about competitions is that you're thinking about the other competitors all the time. You have to cut them out and concentrate on playing good music."

Paul Lewis, one of the British



Clustered round the old joanna: some of the 43 pianists who have gathered from around the globe to do battle in the National Power World Piano Competition

hopes, is 22. He won the recent Tunbridge Wells competition, but feels that competitions can be a trap. "I met someone at another event this year who, at 30, had done ten competitions a year since he was 20. But you try to capitalise on the opportunities, like giving a recital in the Purcell Room which is a pretty rare experience for someone my age. You never know who's in the audience."

For the competitors of 22 or under, there is also the chance to win scholarships. Leon McCawley, now 21, won one in 1991 and as a result studies at the Curtis Institute in Philadelphia. He has won several competitions, and is managed by one of the leading international agencies, Harold Holt. "I did the 1991 competition in the middle of my A levels and didn't get past the semis, but I still managed to win the main scholarship," he recalls. "Without it I would have been really struggling."

How do the different international competitions — notably the Leeds, the Tchaikovsky in Moscow, the Arur Rubinstein in Tel Aviv and the Queen Elisabeth in Brussels — differ in atmosphere? According to 21-year-old Simon Mulligan, another British, "The Queen Elisabeth is the most brutal, with the legend that you have to do without food, water or human contact for a week. This isn't quite that bad, but longer."

Aronovsky, the former Professor of Piano at the Royal Northern College of Music, conceived the idea, having judged in many international competitions. "Colleagues would always ask me if we had anything similar in London, because London is the capital of the musical world. Young pianists need the platform in good concert halls, and it seemed strange that the opportunity was not here."

It is important, believes Hairudinov (who has just won a fellowship for a third year at the Royal College of Music), because in London the best music is so plentiful and accessible: "In Russia I was cut off from great performance because the great players rarely go there now. Here I can see Rostropovich almost weekly."

But with the competitors expected not only to prepare three recitals but also two concertos for the judges to choose from, are these young talents being worked too hard? Not according to Paul Lewis: "One of the best things about this is the experience of preparing what amounts to a two-hour performance and two concertos all by yourself, the kind of intensive work I've never had to do before," he says. "In some ways that's more valuable than winning first prize. But first prize would be nice as well."

● The National Power World Piano Competition continues at the Purcell Room on the South Bank (071-928 8800) until Sept 25, with the final at the Festival Hall on Sept 27

## OPERA: ENO's new season at the Coliseum gets off to a grim start

Puccini week in London continued on Wednesday with the official opening of English National Opera's 1994-95 season and a new production of *Tosca*. It was conducted by Sir Alexander Gibson, a former music director of the company returning to London after too long an absence. As we know from his Puccini in Scotland, he is not one to settle for obvious effects. But while knowing perfectly well how the drama should proceed, he tends to relish the moment, to think in sentences rather than paragraphs: continuity, faltered, once or twice, and the orchestra was perhaps not quite accustomed to his very personal beat — ensemble was by no means perfect.

The announcement that David Rendall (Cavaradossi) was suffering from an allergy put a bit of a hex on an evening not in any case notable for vocal accomplishment: he was plainly singing under difficulties. Nor, sadly, was Rosalind Plowright at ease in the title role, her tone monochrome, her top strained (none of the Cs was quite reached), her words coming and going (mostly the latter), her impressionistic approach to rhythm causing many an awkward moment vis-à-vis the pit. There was a certain placidity, impassivity almost, to her stage manner less than ideally suited to the part.

## Gloss but no sparkle

Tosca  
Coliseum

The Dutch baritone Henk Smit, scratchy of tone and bluster of line, sang Scarpia. Made to first around like a banyan tree, his sadistic police chief seemed no more threatening than a rural dean with mild indigestion. There was a lack of profile in the smaller roles: indeed, the best performance of the evening was Andrew Shore's Sacristan — a real properly thought-out character — and when that is the case then any performance of *Tosca* is in deep, deep trouble.

Rash indeed is the director who imagines he can gloss, let alone improve on Puccini's faultlessly constructed melodrama. Instead of probing what might lie beneath its glossy surface, Keith Warner opted for the application of any number

of cosmetic effects, few of them with causes. Apart from anything else, I do not believe that either music or words can support an anti-heroic, shambling, depressive Cavaradossi.

John Conklin's restless, non-representational decor, drawing inspiration from *Tosca*'s profession as an opera singer, threw in extra proscenium arches and theatrical backdrops at assorted inopportune moments — *Tosca* acknowledging applause after the murder of Scarpia, the Shepherd singing his song perched in a tiny "traditional" *Tosca* set, and so on. *Tosca* picking up the knife long before she used it was not a good idea, nor was the introduction of manacled *Fidelio*-style prisoners into the *Te Deum*. And, who, by the way, on the high altar, was *Tosca* supposed to be? The Magdalene? Who cares?

That so much time should have been spent on all this fumery — which detracted fatally from any concentration — at the expense of serious investigation of the drama or even basic characterisation is too depressing. Oh, in case anyone is still reading: *Tosca* is dispatched by a pistol shot at the end, while a double dose of the traditional fall-bungers-jumping slow motion. Give us a break, sweetie.

RODNEY MILNES

## THEATRE: The RSC revives a classic 'celebration of misrule'

# Aim is shaky but sure

The Hostage  
Barbican

The RSC must feel as if it has organised a tiger-shoot, only to find itself taking aim at large purring creatures in baby costumes. When it decided to stage Brendan Behan's attack on an IRA he thought consisted of "white-faced lions with berets and trenchcoats and teetotal badges", the organisation was still in its death-or-glory phase. Now it has renounced violence, a certain urgency has inevitably gone out of the play and this revival.

Not that the piece was ever an attack in a heroic, focused way. Behan was not like that. In her memoirs Joan Littlewood, the play's original director, describes the confusions of its creation. One day the police arrived with Behan, who was supposed to be busy writing, explaining that they had found him at the wheel of the Woolwich Ferry, exclaiming that he was crossing the Missouri. He was pretty chaotic and so, unsurprisingly, is *The Hostage* itself.

Michael Bogdanov's production and Kendra Ulyart's set signal this from the start. The play occurs not merely in "an old house in Dublin that has seen better days", but in a run-down Georgian townhouse as it might be perceived by someone lying on the pavement with his eyeballs turned inside out. A towering but shabby staircase looms over an askew stage with rows of beer-barrels on one side and, sloping down on the other, the house's own exterior, complete with windows either filthy or covered with corrugated iron.



"Give us a tune, cheer us up": Dermot Crowley as Pat

We have barely time to blink before it fills with whores, transvestites, fiddlers, sailors and odd bods, jiggling like mad. We get to know some of them individually during the evening — James Hayes's decaying clerk, Aled Kaye-Campbell's bounding navy, Sekai Matimba as a boxer called Princess Grace — but it takes very little to bring them bubbling out of their rooms en masse. "Give us a tune, cheer us up", says Dermot Crowley's Pat, our affable host — and lo, an instant ceilidh.

Bogdanov might have tried to sharpen Behan's humour, but it would in every sense have been a pointless endeavor. The play has a certain unity — will the IRA really kill the British squaddie they have kidnapped in reprisal for the hanging of a gunman in Belfast — but in other ways it willfully eschews dramatic discipline. Much of the time it simply drifts, as if this time it were being ferried across the Liffey, and by a wonderfully

slovenly, garrulous boatman, ever-ready with a good joke or a funny song.

Behan had been an errand-boy for the IRA, but by 1958, the year in which Bogdanov keeps the play clearly set, he felt it had lost its heart and its relevance. As a veteran of Easter 1916 says, isn't it archaic in the world of the H-bomb? Moreover, the gunmen are no longer laughing boys but loveless fanatics like the unnamed officer played here by Eoin McCarthy: a Gestapo clone with a prissy Irish accent and a morose goon in tow.

Behan was no political thinker, and obviously and grossly underrated the IRA's resilience; but his diagnosis of its character stands scrutiny. Moreover, his remains a refreshingly warm, embracing voice. He has every sympathy for the "hostage himself", in Damien Lyne's performance a mild, good-humoured sort. He adores the eccentricities who people the brothel in which the boy is held, up to and including John Woodvine's culturally confused Monsieuer: a whiskered blimp who combines Old Etonian enthusiasm with patriotic Irish beliefs, a kilt and bagpipes that bleat like dying sheep.

The original production was full of improvised cracks, so Bogdanov is within his rights when he lets an actor remark that he is speaking the IRA's lines in order to conform with government restrictions. But he is faithful to Behan in the more essential ways, too. This is a celebration of misrule, a rejection of thin-tipped ideology — and all-power to its unsteady elbow.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

## ARTS: The Week Ahead

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# Tax demands undermine transfer

## Everton suffer new setback as Muller move fails

By PETER BALL

EVERTON'S troubled season suffered another, unexpected, blow yesterday when they failed to sign the Brazil forward, Muller. All had seemed set for the transfer of the 28-year-old from São Paulo, but the deal collapsed when Everton refused to pay the player's tax, instead of becoming the latest in an illustrious line of foreign imports in the FA Cup's Premier League.

Muller left Goodison Park after seven fruitless hours in negotiations with Everton and is expected to return to Brazil this morning. "Signed agreements with São Paulo FC and the player had been reached before his travelling to England to finalise the deal," a disappointed Peter Johnson, the Everton chairman, said in a statement. "Following a satisfactory medical examination, differences unfortunately arose because of the interpretations of the United Kingdom tax regulations."

Effectively, Muller wanted the club to pay the tax on his £10,000-a-week salary, something that emerged only when he arrived in England yesterday morning. With the Inland Revenue keeping a close eye on footballers' and football clubs' tax arrangements, Everton refused to do that.

"We see the salary in a contract in this country as being before tax. We know we have to pay tax," Johnson said. It was clear that Muller and

his advisers saw things differently. "We spent several hours in discussion, but we just couldn't do what we were asking us to do," Mike Walker, the Everton manager, said. "Everything had been agreed. Letters had been signed, so we were a bit surprised when the people working for him came in and asked for different things."

The decision left some red faces at Goodison Park. When Muller arrived, accompanied by his agent and a director of the São Paulo club, together with the director's wife, who was acting as interpreter, Everton assumed that the remaining discussions were a formality. A press conference had been called for 4pm to announce the deal.

By 5pm, it became apparent that a serious hitch had occurred. Finally, at 6pm, Muller left, announcing that he was tired after his long journey and returning to his hotel. He would, he said, "sign in the morning". The truth proved more dramatic.

"It is disappointing, but life goes on," Walker said. "There are still one or two good players around and we have one or two in mind."

Muller had been expected to make a formidable striking partnership with Daniel Amokachi, the Nigeria international, who made his debut after a £3 million move from FC Bruges at Blackburn Rovers a week ago.

A veteran of two World Cup campaigns, in Italy in 1990 and, as a substitute, in Brazil's successful campaign in the United States during the summer, Muller was Everton's second overseas failure in recent months.

A planned deal to sign Martin Dahlin, the Sweden international, from Borussia Mönchengladbach also fell through at a late stage.

The club may now turn to another yet overseas player, Karl-Heinz Riedle, of Borussia Dortmund, who has had a disappointing start to the season in Germany. Another possibility is Dean Holdsworth, the Wimbledon forward, who has just asked for a transfer.

In both cases, the players' backgrounds should ensure that there is less confusion over tax regulations, although Muller, like Riedle, had played in Italy earlier in his career.

"I think the tax culture in Italy is a little different from tax culture in the UK," Johnson said dryly.



Muller turned down the chance of a move to Everton yesterday

# United draw on inspirational display by Ince

By ALYSON RUDD

DESPITE efforts to ensure that there are few shocks in the money-spinning competition, the European Cup sprang at least one surprise on Wednesday night with AC Milan, the holders, losing to Ajax in the opening round of Champions' League matches.

There was to be no repeat at Old Trafford, though, where Manchester United — still smarting after defeat at the hands of Galatasaray last year — were perhaps more concerned than most to ensure their opening fixture in group A went to plan.

Their concern appeared warranted when IFK Göteborg, the Swedish champions, took a 27th-minute lead through Pettersson, whose goal owed as much to poor Manchester defending as to Swedish skill. As Alex Ferguson, the Manchester United manager, said: "Their first goal asked a lot of the character of our team." It answered in spectacular fashion, finishing the game 4-2 winners.

Manchester equalised in the 34th minute when Giggs met Hughes's blocked cross, and took the lead three minutes after the interval through Kanchelskis. Although Göteborg quickly replied through a deflected free kick.

United stepped up a gear, sealing the tie with goals from Giggs and Sharpe. Much of the English side's zest stemmed from the performance of Paul Ince, who Ferguson hailed as "magnificent".

There was also an early scare for Barcelona in their group A match against Galatasaray. After a quarter of an hour the Spaniards were trailing to a goal from Turkylmaz. However, the

side swept aside by Milan in the final last season fought back with goals from Koeman and Amor to win 2-1 at the Nou Camp.

Milan exhibited little of their renowned cohesion and flair in Amsterdam. Tassotti, Albertini, Massaro and Panucci were suspended and Dessaly injured. Gullit was expecting a hostile reception and was not disappointed. The Dutch forward had yet to forgive Gullit's absence from his country's World Cup campaign.

Bayern Munich also suffered a 2-0 defeat in their group B match against Paris Saint-Germain in France. Jürgen Klinsmann, the Tottenham Hotspur forward, said yesterday that his club's ambition was to be playing at a comparable level to AC Milan and Barcelona within the next few years. "AC Milan and Barcelona are at a very high level at the moment, a level at which Spurs want to be in two or three years' time," Klinsmann said.

Notts County, the Endsleigh Insurance League first division club that dismissed Mick Walker as manager on Wednesday, has appointed his assistant, Russell Slade, in his place.

Wayne Jones, the reserve-team coach, has also been promoted, becoming Slade's assistant. Derek Davis, said: "I'm giving them a chance to show what they can do."

The Hereford United manager, Greg Downs, parted company with the third division club by mutual consent yesterday. His assistant, John Layton, has been put in charge for the match against Doncaster Rovers tonight.

# Hopkin in charge of inquiry

SIR David Hopkin, the president of the British Boxing Board of Control and formerly London's chief magistrate, is to head a special inquiry into the crowd disturbance at the NEC in Birmingham last Saturday.

Rival supporters clashed several times during the event, promoted by Frank Warren and featuring the WBC world title contest between Nigel Benn and Juan Carlos Gomez, along with two British title bouts. The inquiry will be held in London on Monday, September 26.

"Prince" Naseem Hamed, the undefeated European bantamweight champion, will break new ground in an attempt to land a second professional crown. The Sheffield boxer takes on Freddy Cruz, who has twice challenged for a world title, for the vacant WBC International super-bantamweight crown at Ponds Forge on October 12.

**Floodlit appeal** Cricket: The International Cricket Council (ICC) is to discuss staging regular six-a-side floodlit games between the Test-playing countries. The success of this form of the game in Hong Kong has convinced some of the ICC's associate members that it has a viable place in the cricket calendar. David Richards, the chief executive of the ICC, has been invited to attend an international floodlit event that will be staged at the Oval on September 21 and 22.

**Yates excels** Cycling: Sean Yates gained the best placing by a British rider for 31 years in the 25km Paris to Brussels road race yesterday when he was third behind Rolf Sørensen, of Denmark, and Franco Ballerini, of Italy. In 1963 the late Tom Simpson was second.

**Botica to move** Rugby League: Franco Botica, the prodigious Wigan goalkicker and scorer of the fastest 1,000 points in the history of the code, has dashed hopes he might stay on at Central Park by confirming that he is moving at the end of the season to the new Auckland Warriors club.

**Ubogu unfit** Rugby Union: Victor Ubogu, the England prop, has been ruled out of Bath's Courage League match at Northampton tomorrow. Ubogu, who has struggled with a knee ligament problem since England's tour of South Africa, is replaced by Dave Hilton for the trip to Frankings Gardens.

# FOOTBALL

**WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS**  
 1. Arsenal 2-0 Manchester United  
 2. Tottenham 2-0 Chelsea  
 3. Liverpool 2-0 Manchester City  
 4. Everton 2-0 Southampton  
 5. Newcastle 2-0 Aston Villa  
 6. Leeds 2-0 Sheffield Wednesday  
 7. Nottingham Forest 2-0 Derby County  
 8. Middlesbrough 2-0 West Brom  
 9. Blackburn 2-0 Preston  
 10. Ipswich 2-0 Norwich  
 11. Reading 2-0 Luton  
 12. Barnsley 2-0 Bury  
 13. Millwall 2-0 Shrewsbury  
 14. Exeter 2-0 Yeovil  
 15. Gillingham 2-0 Maidstone  
 16. Southend 2-0 Grays  
 17. Dover 2-0 Maidstone  
 18. Maidstone 2-0 Dover  
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 20. Maidstone 2-0 Dover

# ATHLETICS

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# Land of infinite dreams lost behind shroud of self-interest

Come now. Follow me. Down where the river flows runs and on its fertile banks Llandoverly College stands. Last week the sixth-formers returned and enrolled for another year. They returned ahead of the others with a lighter step, though this was not to last long, because the term's rugby was about to start and they needed to prepare.

Outside Ty Ddewi, the seniors' house, and next to their sumptuous sports hall, they spent their time on Tredegar Close solely aware how stiff and fragile their joints had become during the long summer's lazy recess. Whining and wishing they had been more fastidious in following their pre-season training plan, they crept like snails.

There is then the stirring of new life among the old sights and familiar sounds. Stud's clatter in the hall, muddy debris is left in their wake. The corridors echo with the bellowing greetings and exchanges. Who's in? Who's out? Let's share the tale. Some are more anxious than others. Where, oh where, have the holidays gone? And everywhere there is the pervasive smell — the most evocative of all, perhaps, of a new season — of sootling liniment hanging in the air. Outside, the grass has been mown, the pitch marked.

There is here, if you listen, that sense of glad confident morning, of wonder and suspense. Ahead lies the season and who knows what? A land of infinite dreams. Here, within the confines of the school, they will get to understand the need to play up, play up and play the game, and without any high moral tone. They understand it because they know it makes sense.

At the same time, they will also know that the match has to be won. There is the combination of fair play, without being soft, harnessed to the sharpness of the desperate desire to succeed and without which no contest is worthy of the name. Sharp practice is sometimes tolerated, but not in a dark, cynical mood. But beyond these walls the

picture that rugby may offer is far from clear. The sea of rugby faith, if the poet allows, is retreating in a melancholy, long, withdrawing roar. At the time of its greatest success, and because of it, the game is in a tremble of equivocation. Any return to calm is a long way off. The overwhelming impression is of a world governed by self-interest. Loyalty and the team ethic, promoted at school, counts for

very little. Players move from club to club, country to country, depending on what's on offer for him. Loyalty has a price on its head. Violence, abhorred and treated accordingly at school, is dealt with ambivalence in the international adult world. Failure by the offending player even to admit wrongdoing reinforces the harm and undermines the game's credibility. Rodder, to his credit, was

contrite, but who else is there who offers an apology? Leadership, a much vaunted and desirable quality within education, is singularly lacking on rugby's world stage. Unions, without exception, ignore directives from their ruling body and do so quite shamelessly.

That South Africa was prepared — through the appointment of Ray Mordt as fitness instructor for their forthcoming tour of Wales and Scotland — to snub the sport that in one form or another kept the bridges open during its isolation, is yet another example of self-interest.

Mordt, a winger who played 24 times for South Africa, was ruled ineligible by

GERALD DAVIES

Rugby Commentary

## Walker keen to take on redoubtable champion

FROM COLIN MCQUILLAN IN BARCELONA

CHRIS Walker, the England No 2 who is often overlooked while Peter Marshall, the British champion, and Peter Nicol, the Scottish champion, lead the pursuit of Jansher Khan, of Pakistan, today has the chance to upstage his compatriots in the quarter-finals of the Ballantines world open squash championship here.

Walker, the sixth seed, yesterday dismissed Zarak Jahan 15-10, 15-7, 10-15, 15-2 in 66 minutes of fast, inventive play that left the normally stubborn Pakistani groping desperately.

"I actually lost the third game trying too hard for my shots," Walker said. "I was a bit nervous because Zarak can give you a couple of games sometimes and then make you look damn silly by the end. But he seemed to have no real answers here."

The win took Walker, 27, from Colchester, in Essex, into a quarter-final with the defending champion, Jansher, who arrived travel-weary and a little under-trained from an unexpected 3-0 loss to Marshall in the European club championship finals in Paris last weekend.

"I think he is not moving so well or covering the play in his usual fashion," Walker said. "That seems to make him more tactically dangerous, though. I have had just enough match play to be on my best game."

A semi-finalist in the last world open in Karachi 12 months ago, when he defeated Rodney Martin but could not overcome his awe of Jansher Khan, Walker also reached semi-finals in both the Leekes Classic and the British Open this year. He admitted he is keen to take over some of the limelight from Marshall and Nicol.

"I am ready for the next breakthrough," he said. "Getting into the world top ten was hard, but moving on from No 6 into the top five is probably the hardest thing in the game. I would certainly enjoy doing it with a first win over the world No 1 in the world open championship."

Jansher smiled at that comment after defeating Philip Whitlock, the England captain, 15-9 15-8 15-7 in 46 minutes yesterday. He sees his main pressure these days coming from home in Pakistan.

"They expect me to win all the time," he said. "Here they expect me to equal Jansher's record of six world open wins. It makes a growing pressure."

Just a few weeks back Jansher received a special £6,000 award from the government of Pakistan for his success thus far, but there were serious questions from the prime minister about who was being prepared to continue Pakistan's tradition in the sport.

Jansher's elder brother, Mohibullah, has recently been appointed national coach. With Jansher, he is preparing a plan for massive development of young players. "We can look to training squads of up to 450 young players in each region," Mohibullah said yesterday. "From those we will select perhaps 50 players for an elite training programme."

"The Pakistan Squash Federation has been assured that money is no object in securing a new generation of top Pakistani players. We told the prime minister we think we can have new talent emerging at the top of the game in five years or so."

"Jansher will have to keep the rest of the world at bay until then."

Results, page 35



Mitchell, from Portsmouth, makes ready for the BOC Challenge round-the-world race that starts tomorrow

## Solo sailors share common goal

FROM BARRY PICKTHALL IN CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA

WHAT is it that drives men to sacrifice so much to achieve a dream? This single-minded spirit is in abundance here, not least among the six British sailors preparing for the start tomorrow of the fourth BOC Challenge solo round-the-world race.

All are aware that they stand little chance of winning. To complete is sufficient, their goal being merely to complete the testing 27,000-mile course. For Harry Mitchell, a retired garage owner from Portsmouth, the ambition is to complete the race before he loses his strength "and muscles". This is his third attempt and, at 70, he knows that time is against him.

Eight years ago a navigation mistake left his boat high and dry on the sands of New Zealand's South Island. Four years later he ran into a freighter before he had reached the start. If he makes it this time, Mitchell has promised to have his left ear pierced in the time honoured fashion that

CLASS 1: Mark Gatehouse (45), Plymouth, Boat: 601 Queen Anne's Battery Mariner (1986), Josh Hall (32), Ipswich, Boat: 601 Garding Investment Mariner (1988). CLASS 2: Robin Davis (42), St. Austery, Cornwall, Boat: 401 Cornwall (1973), Harry Mitchell (70), Portsmouth, Boat: 401 Henry Hornblower (1985), Nigel Rowe (53), Titchfield, Boat: 401 Sky Catcher (1988), Niall Vaughan (49), Whitehaven, Boat: 501 Jinnica (1988).

once marked out those who had weathered Cape Horn.

"It is not the challenge it once was," Mitchell said yesterday. "Too many people have done it and the professional sailors now within the race means that amateurs like me stand no chance. But I still want to do it in the hope that it will help me to keep my marbles and live to a ripe old age."

Nigel Rowe, the BOC executive who fostered the challenge 12 years ago and has now taken a year's sabbatical to compete, knows better than most what

drives men to sell up and sail: at 33, he is staring at enforced early retirement and a large hole in his life savings. "The more I became involved with the race, the more I wanted to do it," he said. Rowe says that he simply wants to complete the course, but buoyed by his victory in the recent BOC Transatlantic Challenge, he will be pushing his 48-foot Sky Catcher and competitors hard.

These aspirations are shared by Mark Gatehouse and Niall Vaughan. Gatehouse, an experienced single-handler whose eight-year-old boat led for much of the BOC Transatlantic race, has a mariner's business in Plymouth to fall back on upon his return, while Vaughan has owned 20,000 miles since taking up sailing 12 years ago.

Two others, Josh Hall, from Ipswich, and Robin Davis, from Cornwall, have fulfilled this dream once and have come back for more on shoestring budgets. Both were competitors last time around, and while Hall has graduated to a 60-footer, Davis, a merchant navy officer, is content to sail his 40-footer a second time.

## Baseball season expires and a nation mourns

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK

THE fat lady sang, and it was a dirge. After lying stricken and mortally wounded for more than a month, baseball was finally put out of its misery on Wednesday and the 1994 season was pronounced dead.

"There cannot be any joy," the acting Major League Baseball commissioner, Bud Selig, said in announcing that the club owners had voted to abandon the rest of the season on the 34th day of a players' strike during which the sides fought each other to a scoreless point draw. There will be no more games this year, no playoffs and no World Series championship for the first time in 90 years.

More than any other American sport, baseball is a branch of social philosophy, a game that began in its professional form just four years after the Civil War and, ever since, has provided a binding element in the cultural glue that sticks America together.

Like the turning of the leaves or the first pumpkin of fall, the World Series, even for those who do not follow baseball closely, marked the changing of the season. The time is out of joint and, as they contemplate the behemoths of their "national pastime", commentators wax mournful.

"Baseball is about the highly far, which few of us grew up on, and it is about railroad trains keeping in the night on the prairies, which few of us ever heard," *The New York Times* observed. "In Memoriam," on its front page.

Perhaps, but it is now principally, shamelessly, about money. The baseball club owners, rightly pointing out that players earn an average of \$1.2 million each, want a salary cap on earnings; the players, rightly pointing out that the owners' team is a great deal more than they will, will not submit to any curtailment of their future prosperity.

The dead baseball season illustrates the widening gulf, not just in baseball but in many American sports, be-

tween those who organise and play the game and those who pay to watch it.

Baseball, has, a mythical aura for many Americans. It is the sport of Norman Rockwell, a diamond glimpsed through hazy evening sunshine, Mom and Pop, a glass of cold beer and a hot dog at the end of the day. Baseball, it is often said, is about coming home.

Ken Burns' *Baseball* television series, has now captured a television history of baseball. It lasts no less than 18 hours and is already destined to be one of the most widely watched programmes in history.

But for players and owners alike, baseball, is simply a business, an economic matter of bottom lines and bargaining agreements.

In one sense, the baseball season of 1994 may turn out to be a homecoming for sport in general, for it has thrown into sharp relief the astonishing greed that has consumed its way into the heart of American sports-manship.

Baseball may never be the same again, but it may be better. Baseball fans have already made it clear that they will not tolerate far too much more of the same. They have already made it clear that they will not tolerate far too much more of the same. They have already made it clear that they will not tolerate far too much more of the same.

The real baseball will survive, of course, in hometowns and Little League and legend, but as it staggers, inch by inch, into winter, the ugly monstrosity that professional baseball has become faces a bleak future. If, as some predict, outraged and abused supporters begin to abandon the sport in large numbers, there may be the faintest of owners and players to stare at their empty ball-parks and plead: "Say it ain't so."

Leading article, page 17

## Ryan leads with regal display in dressage

BY JENNY MACARTHUR

A SCINTILLATING performance on the thoroughbred, Regal Style, has given Australia's Olympic three-day event champion, Matt Ryan, a slender lead ahead of Luis Alvarez Cervera, of Spain, on the Commander, at the end of a rain-soaked first day of dressage at the Blenheim Audi International Horse Trials.

On a day when driving rain and gusty winds put a premium on tactful riding, Anna Hermann, of Sweden, a team gold medal-winner at the 1993 European championships, and Andrew Hoy, a member of Australia's 1992 Olympic gold medal-winning team, were the only other riders to have a score in the forties. Britain's best performance came from Neil Fox, who is sixth on his Western Park winner, Colorado Springs.

Ryan's faith in the spirited Australian-bred Regal Style has been well tested since the eight-year-old gelding arrived in his Oxfordshire yard in March. Headstrong and green, he fell at the easiest fence on the course at Aithorp in July. Ryan sustained a broken pelvis and dislocated shoulder and had to withdraw his Olympic champion, Kybathic Toc, from the world championships.

At Gatcombe last month, Regal Style went some way to redeeming himself with a clear round. Yesterday, the former racehorse looked demure and compliant as he danced through the rain to earn his deservedly high score of 46.

Blyth Tait, of New Zealand, the former world champion, was pleasantly surprised with his test on Monica Hunt's Ivor Chance, a former hunter of Richard Meade's. Tait, who has only

ridden the horse for a week, is eighth. Karen Dixon, who leads the world rider rankings, is in nineteenth place but was pleased with the improvement in her nine-year-old, Hot Property.

Aaron Mannion, of Ireland, aged 20, has taken a commanding lead in the Young Riders European championships on Custom Made, one of Ireland's top young dressage horses who started eventing only two years ago. The Australian-born Mannion owes his dressage prowess to two years spent with the Danish trainer, Kjeld Frederiksen. Last year, he and Custom Made underlined their eventing skills when they won the novice championships at Thirlestane.

Britain is fifth (out of five) in the championships at the halfway stage of the dressage, but should improve today when Polly Clark, on Foggio, and Terry Boon, on Vidal Decision, the defending champion, perform their tests. They will be well tested over the cross-country course, which Christopher Schofield, the chairman of the selectors, describes as the toughest he has seen in the 14-year history of the Young Riders championships.

The course is a fair three-star test for the senior riders. Two of the most technically demanding fences are the Shell Corner (No 5) and the Toggi Curves (No 18), a double of arrow-heads.

RESULTS (after first day of dressage): 1. Regal Style (M Ryan, AUS) 46; 2. The Commander (A Alvarez Cervera, ESP) 47; 3. Luis Alvarez Cervera (A Alvarez Cervera, ESP) 48; 4. The Commander (A Alvarez Cervera, ESP) 49; 5. The Commander (A Alvarez Cervera, ESP) 50; 6. The Commander (A Alvarez Cervera, ESP) 51; 7. The Commander (A Alvarez Cervera, ESP) 52; 8. The Commander (A Alvarez Cervera, ESP) 53; 9. The Commander (A Alvarez Cervera, ESP) 54; 10. The Commander (A Alvarez Cervera, ESP) 55.

## Redgrave and Pinsent outclass opponents

FROM MIKE ROSEWELL IN INDIANAPOLIS

BRITAIN'S leading performers proved their dependability as tension mounted on semi-finals day in the world rowing championships here yesterday.

Steve Redgrave and Matthew Pinsent dominated their race in the coxless pairs. They ignored an early rush by Australia and Germany, took the lead after 500 metres and moved steadily away in an exhibition that brought admiring applause from spectators of all nations.

The anticipated challenge to their supremacy from the Germans, Hoeltzenbein and Streppelhoff, who finished second, has not yet materialised and the Canadians, who led the British pair to 1,500 metres at Lucerne, were slower to halfway when winning the other semi-final, their rate generally being some four strokes per minute higher.

"It was comfortable. We cruised it along, but we must be prepared for the Germans to be holding something back," Redgrave said. He also expressed some relief, revealing that he and Pinsent had, by their standards, been inconsistent in training, having taken a break after shattering the world record in Lucerne.

The performance of the coxless four, with the Searle brothers in the "engine room", raised hopes of another medal. They trailed the French world champions and Poland to 1,500 metres before producing a push that moved them past the Poles, and they finished overlapping the French, apparently with something in hand.

"In a different situation we could have gone faster," Rupert Obholzer, the stroke said. "We did a better start today but had a better rhythm on

Monday. We must put the two together because the French and Italians are the fastest on paper." Andy Simon and Stuart Whitelaw, the lightweight scullers, meticulously booked their final appearance. They moved smoothly from fourth to second, finishing a split second behind the Gier brothers, from Switzerland, world silver medal-winners last year.

Guin Baiten, the younger sister of Miriam, who is in the women's coxless pair, failed to qualify for the women's sculls final and the British eight will not be involved in what promises to be a classic final on Sunday. In the repechage, the crew went to the start thinking they had to beat France or Russia, or both, to gain a place in the top two in a five-boat contest. But the Ukraine proved jokers in the pack. Britain being pushed down to fourth.

RESULTS: Men's Coxless pairs (two to a boat): Heat 1: Canada 7:11.10, France 7:27. Heat 2: Germany 7:22, A. Great Britain 7:33 (to B final). Double sculls (two to a boat): Heat 1: Spain 6:54, Australia 6:54, New Zealand 6:54, Heat 2: Italy 6:51, Ukraine 6:51, Heat 3: Denmark 6:46, Slovenia 6:51. No British entry. Coxless pairs (two to a boat): Heat 1: Australia 6:10, Heat 2: Australia 6:10, Heat 3: Australia 6:10, Heat 4: Australia 6:10, Heat 5: Australia 6:10, Heat 6: Australia 6:10, Heat 7: Australia 6:10, Heat 8: Australia 6:10, Heat 9: Australia 6:10, Heat 10: Australia 6:10, Heat 11: Australia 6:10, Heat 12: Australia 6:10, Heat 13: Australia 6:10, Heat 14: Australia 6:10, Heat 15: Australia 6:10, Heat 16: Australia 6:10, Heat 17: Australia 6:10, Heat 18: Australia 6:10, Heat 19: Australia 6:10, Heat 20: Australia 6:10, Heat 21: Australia 6:10, Heat 22: Australia 6:10, Heat 23: Australia 6:10, Heat 24: Australia 6:10, Heat 25: Australia 6:10, Heat 26: Australia 6:10, Heat 27: Australia 6:10, Heat 28: Australia 6:10, Heat 29: Australia 6:10, Heat 30: Australia 6:10, Heat 31: Australia 6:10, Heat 32: Australia 6:10, Heat 33: Australia 6:10, Heat 34: Australia 6:10, Heat 35: Australia 6:10, Heat 36: Australia 6:10, Heat 37: Australia 6:10, Heat 38: Australia 6:10, Heat 39: Australia 6:10, Heat 40: Australia 6:10, Heat 41: Australia 6:10, Heat 42: Australia 6:10, Heat 43: Australia 6:10, Heat 44: Australia 6:10, Heat 45: Australia 6:10, Heat 46: Australia 6:10, Heat 47: Australia 6:10, Heat 48: Australia 6:10, Heat 49: Australia 6:10, Heat 50: Australia 6:10, Heat 51: Australia 6:10, Heat 52: Australia 6:10, Heat 53: Australia 6:10, Heat 54: Australia 6:10, Heat 55: Australia 6:10, Heat 56: Australia 6:10, Heat 57: Australia 6:10, Heat 58: Australia 6:10, Heat 59: Australia 6:10, Heat 60: Australia 6:10, Heat 61: Australia 6:10, Heat 62: Australia 6:10, Heat 63: Australia 6:10, Heat 64: Australia 6:10, Heat 65: Australia 6:10, Heat 66: Australia 6:10, Heat 67: Australia 6:10, Heat 68: Australia 6:10, Heat 69: Australia 6:10, Heat 70: Australia 6:10, Heat 71: Australia 6:10, Heat 72: Australia 6:10, Heat 73: Australia 6:10, Heat 74: Australia 6:10, Heat 75: Australia 6:10, Heat 76: Australia 6:10, Heat 77: Australia 6:10, Heat 78: Australia 6:10, Heat 79: Australia 6:10, Heat 80: Australia 6:10, Heat 81: Australia 6:10, Heat 82: Australia 6:10, Heat 83: Australia 6:10, Heat 84: Australia 6:10, Heat 85: Australia 6:10, Heat 86: Australia 6:10, Heat 87: Australia 6:10, Heat 88: Australia 6:10, Heat 89: Australia 6:10, Heat 90: Australia 6:10, Heat 91: Australia 6:10, Heat 92: Australia 6:10, Heat 93: Australia 6:10, Heat 94: Australia 6:10, Heat 95: Australia 6:10, Heat 96: Australia 6:10, Heat 97: Australia 6:10, Heat 98: Australia 6:10, Heat 99: Australia 6:10, Heat 100: Australia 6:10, Heat 101: Australia 6:10, Heat 102: Australia 6:10, Heat 103: Australia 6:10, Heat 104: Australia 6:10, Heat 105: Australia 6:10, Heat 106: Australia 6:10, Heat 107: Australia 6:10, Heat 108: Australia 6:10, Heat 109: Australia 6:10, Heat 110: Australia 6:10, Heat 111: Australia 6:10, Heat 112: Australia 6:10, Heat 113: Australia 6:10, Heat 114: Australia 6:10, Heat 115: Australia 6:10, Heat 116: Australia 6:10, Heat 117: Australia 6:10, Heat 118: Australia 6:10, Heat 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which Basil finally bawled into Bernard Cribbins's face, "Why don't you talk properly?" "I don't want a general discussion on the multiplicity of topics just now," thank you very much," says Lenny Henry to his wife in bed. "WHY DON'T YOU TALK PROPERLY?" I wanted to yell.

Everything in *Chef!* is over the egg-and-spoon concept, possibly, the *cent* *château* Angels. Phoning in inquires about school fees. Henry recoils with disbelief, "What sort of games do you play?" he shrieks. "Formula One motor racing." Translating paralinguist? Do you play batdishes with the real thing? Supposedly, this list is designed to get funnier as it goes on; but it dissipates instead. Meanwhile I do hope Henry's outrageous objections to a suggested "prefix" baffle the viewer, and just may, *prior* fine I had, unfortunately, passed in care.

Lynne  
Truss



Lynne  
Truss

A woman police officer in a mechanic's garb hooked a lamp under a car bonnet and explained the tell-tale signs of a stolen car — *ousize rivets on the engine number plate* being the most obvious. Watching this pro-

gramme before seeing Channel 4's *Critical Eye* about women in the police, I thought nothing of it. Overall, woman, police, rivets, lamp — all had equal significance (except the rivets, perhaps, which were a very useful tip). Having seen *Service With a Smile* however, this officer's gender became much more of an issue. Why weren't there women heading this

Most striking was WPC Sue Kelly, an imposing Essex woman who patrols Stansted airport armed to the neck with ammo, kits, cuffs and automatic weapon, looking deadly serious while her

is funny? The lines are laboured, the plot is borrowed, and the central joke is that a black man is a snob. References to *Fawlty Towers* being rather apt (since *Chef!* has lifted its new sozzled-cook story directly — and with overt acknowledgements — from Kurt's disaster on gourmet night), I keep recalling the hotel inspector episode in

Transalpine paragliding? Do you play battleships with the real thing?" Supposedly, this list is designed to get funnier as it goes on; but it dissipates instead. Meanwhile I do hope Henry's outrageous objections to a suggested "prefix" baffled other viewers, not just me. By the time I discovered it was *prix fixe* I had, unfortunately ceased to care.


CHANNEL 4

6.35am Little Dracula (5383581)  
7.00 The Big Breakfast (r) (502329)  
9.00 You Bet Your Life (r) (86429)  
9.30 Evening Shade. Wood (Burt Reynolds) is tormented by the imminent arrival of cousin Alva, a former convict (s) (34142)  
10.00 FILM: This Above All (1942, b/w) starring Tyrone Power and Joan Fontaine. An army deserter is given the chance to prove that he is not a coward through his defiance with a young woman, the young woman married by Anatole Litvak (27806)  
12.00 Profiles of Nature: The Harp Seal. The birth of thousands of Harp seals amid the ice floes off the Gulf of St Lawrence (r) (91993)  
12.30pm Sesame Street. With Susan Sarandon (r) (48516) 1.30 Lift Off (17429)  
2.00 Living Memory. The history of the Ploickernell farm, from the Vale of Berkeley in Gloucestershire, continues with the 1970s (20371210)  
2.25 Channel 4 Racing from Ayr. The 2.35, 3.05, 3.30 and 4.05 races (67127974)  
4.30 Countdown. Play with The Times and win up to £1,000 each day (Teletext) (s) (516)  
5.00 The Bureaucracy: The Price of Freedom. The story of the FBI (r) (Teletext) (s) (7852)  
6.00 Blossom (r) (Teletext) (s) (581)  
6.30 Happy Days (r) (Teletext) (531)  
7.00 Channel 4 News (Teletext) (990993)  
7.50 You Don't Know Me But... The Times columns and former Tory MP Matthew Parns has some words of encouragement for Jeremy Huntley, the Conservative Party Chairman (147603)  
8.00 CRIME The Lost Believements (Teletext) (7429)  
8.30 Brookside. (Teletext) (s) (9264)  
9.00 Garden Club. Alnmack is this week's venue as Roy

admire autumn colour and attend the local rock and  
onion show. (Teletext) (2332)

**9.30 The Golden Girls** Blanche's brother Clayton is a  
town n. (Teletext) (21622)

**10.00 Fraser: Travels with Martin** Sit-com with Kelsey  
Grammer. (Teletext) (s) (92622)



**Clive Anderson lost for words (10.30pm)**

**10.30 PHONE Clive Anderson Talks Back** (s)  
(366535)

**11.10 Just For Laughs — The Queer Comics** Julian  
Clay introduces gay and lesbian comedy acts from  
the Montreal Comedy Festival. Among them are  
Bob Downe, Mark Davis, Suzanne Westenholme  
and Emira Kurt (s) (198871)

**12.30am FILM: Shadow of the Cat** (1961, b/w) starring  
Catherine Lacy and André Morell. Murder about a cat  
that avenges its mistress's killer. Directed by  
John Gilling (39456)

**2.00 FILM: The Devil Doll** (1936, b/w) starring Lionel  
Barnmore and Maureen O'Sullivan. A wrongly  
convicted man escapes from Devil's Island and  
makes use of a serum which turns men into  
mannequins to wreak revenge on his enemies  
(Teletext) (s) (92622)

lab (2606)

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## SQUASH 36

WALKER MOVES INTO  
LIMELIGHT AT  
WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

## SPORT

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 16 1994

CLEMENT FREUD 38

HOSED DOWN AND  
DRY BY LUNCHTIME  
AT WOBURN

Holdings open two-goal lead

# Arsenal finish in control as Cypriots fade

Omonia Nicosia ..... 1  
Arsenal ..... 3

FROM RUSSELL KEMPSON  
IN NICOSIA

TIGHT, compact and professional. Arsenal began their defence of the Cup Winners' Cup in the Makarios Stadium here last night with a display for which they are famed. They first doused the expected fire of Omonia Nicosia in this first-round, first-leg tie before scoring three times. Omonia's goal was a mere hiccup: the tie is over.

Without Adams, Selley and Campbell, all suspended, the Arsenal side had a vaguely makeshift look about it, especially in central defence. Bould, Adams's usual partner, was also missing, having not fully recovered from injury. The midfield quartet looked potent, though, while Wright and Smith were entrusted with ending Arsenal's frustrating run of six hours 14 minutes without a goal.

Omonia, 17 times the Cyprus champions, fielded nine international players, and a bumpy pitch and a partisan crowd, though infiltrated by a largish band of Arsenal followers, gave them a distinct edge in the early exchanges.

After only two minutes,

Keown was exposed for pace and balance along the left flank as Malekos cut inside him with ease. His cross ran kindly for Constantinou, and his shot seemed to be flying past Seaman until Dixon intercepted with a timely clearance near the goal.

A minute later, Arsenal's nervousness was evident again. Savvides slammed his way past several powder-puff challenges only to see his powerful effort deflected behind by an outstretched leg from Keown. Omonia were not in awe — far from it.

At last, though, Arsenal settled and edgily ventured forward for the first time. Merson released Dixon down the right wing but, with numerous red shirts waiting for decent service in the middle, he clipped his cross too deeply.

Arsenal continued to press, unconvincedly, and almost went in front when Merson's swinging corner descended at a nice height for Linighan. He could not control his header, however, and Christou was untroubled.

Arsenal, somewhat typically, appeared more content to contain, allowing Omonia to dictate the pattern of play. Xiourouppas volleyed wildly over and Seaman caught comfortably from Malekos's header. Savvides then chipped over when positioned well.

Wright was beginning to prove menacing, though, and after a mazy run had ended with a poor pass to Merson, the pair combined again in the 37th minute to give Arsenal the lead. Wright was the provider once more, pushing the ball into Merson's path with the quietest of flicks. Merson moved forward in splendid solitude and as Christou, the goalkeeper, advanced, he lobbed the ball nonchalantly into the net for his first goal of the season.

Yet any thoughts of being able to relax disappeared as Arsenal were almost punished immediately. Xiourouppas sent in a stinging 35-yard drive that Seaman did well to tip over and then, from the subsequent corner, Malekos volleyed inches over.

Four minutes into the second half, Arsenal achieved what they had been hoping for — a second goal to silence the home crowd and, possibly, to settle the tie. A speculative ball lashed into the Omonia half should have been easy to deal with by Christou, the Omonia captain. He misjudged it completely, though, and could only nod it into the path of Wright. It was a similar chance to the one he had created for Merson for the first goal, and it was finished in similarly clinical fashion.

In the 74th minute, Omonia reduced the deficit when Schwarz gave away the ball near the halfway line. Malekos collected it, ran on through the back-peddalling Arsenal defence and rifled home a well struck shot via Seaman's left hand at the foot of the post. Six minutes later, however, Arsenal regained their two-goal advantage when Wright burst clear and found Merson with a perfect pass. Merson needed no second asking and thundered in his shot past the helpless Christou.

OMONIA NICOSIA (4-5-1): C Christou — C Constantinou, P Parasgionou, C Christou, G Christou — C Malekos, G Savvides, P Xiourouppas, A Kariotis (sub: D Kufakavli, 56min), S Andreou — G Georgiades.

ARSENAL (4-4-2): D Seaman — L Dixon, M Keown, A Linighan, N Winterburn — R Parkour, J Jensen, S Schwarz (sub: S Morrow, 70, P Merson — Wright, A Smith. Referee: A Marcal (Portugal).

## Popescu's debut held up by lack of permit

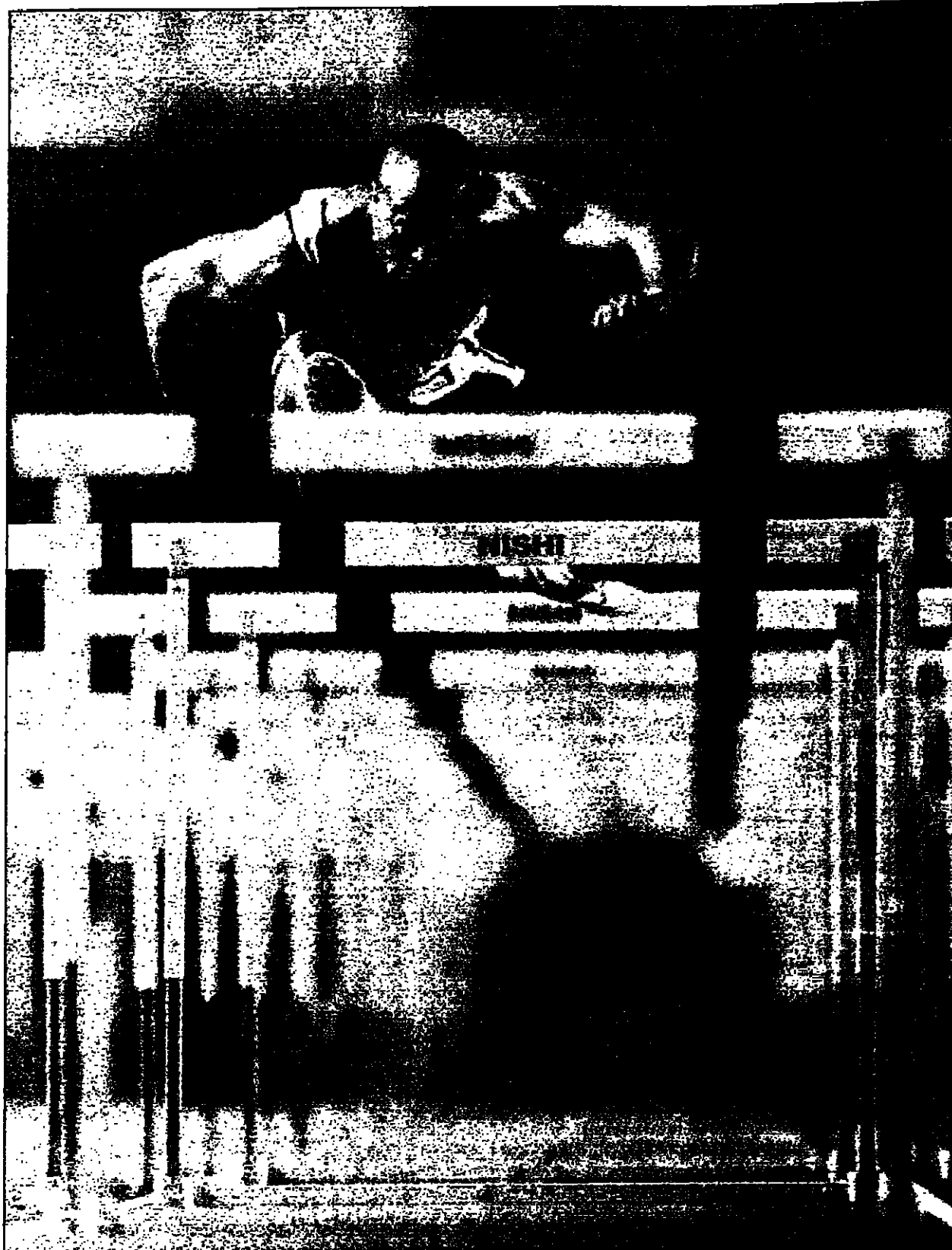
GHEORGHE Popescu, the Romanian defender, is hoping that a plea from the football hierarchy helps to clear the way for his Tottenham debut at Leicester tomorrow.

Oswaldo Ardiles, the Tottenham manager, will unveil the player, signed from PSV Eindhoven for £2.9 million a week ago, at White Hart Lane this morning. But, as things stand, Popescu will be put back under wraps for the game at Filbert Street 24 hours later.

The Department of Employment claims that Popescu's work permit is "still under

consideration" because the football authorities have not yet provided certain information. But, last night, Mike Foster, secretary of the FA Carling Premier League, said: "We responded positively to the department's request for further comments. We understand the FA has done the same and we both hope that the work permit will be granted in time for Popescu to appear on Saturday."

Popescu, 26, joins his compatriot, Ilie Dumitrescu, and Jürgen Klinsmann, of Germany, at White Hart Lane.



Jackson sets his sights on the finishing line during his impressive 110 metres victory in Tokyo yesterday.

## Jackson preserves perfect record

COLIN Jackson recorded his best time of the season in Tokyo yesterday and retained the perfect, undefeated record in the 100 metres hurdles that had been one of his ambitions for 1994. The world, European and Commonwealth champion was a clear winner in 12.98sec, with Tony Jarrett, who won the World Cup at Crystal Palace last weekend, a distant second in 13.42sec. Linford Christie won his

final race of the season and settled a score with the American sprinter, Dennis Mitchell. Christie's 10.02sec win in the 100 metres is likely to mean that he ends 1994 as the highest-ranked athlete in the event, ahead of Mitchell, who has beaten him several times during the summer.

John Regis, another World Cup winner, had to settle for third place in the 200 metres in 20.55sec. Michael Johnson, of the United States, won in 20.09sec.

There were controversies involving Mike Powell, the American world long jump champion, and Sergei Bubka, the world pole vault champion, from Ukraine. Powell lost his temper when his last jump, an 8.31 metres leap that would have won the event, was declared a foul. His protest lasted nearly 30 minutes, delaying the start of the

100 metres and disrupting a world record attempt by Bubka on the other side of the stadium, an attempt that eventually failed.

Bubka said later that he broke his pole on his first jump because an official meant to catch the poles of jumpers on release had disappeared from his post. He called for more professional officials to manage leading athletics events.

## Olympics speed up as fast-food joins the menu

McDonald's, the American fast-food chain, will run six restaurants at the Olympic Village in Atlanta at the 1996 Games, serving their most popular items, burgers and chicken nuggets, around the clock.

The 15,000 competitors, coaches and officials housed at the Olympic Village will be fed free of charge, said officials of the company, which is a corporate sponsor of the Games. "This will demonstrate even world-class athletes go to McDonald's," Paul Schrage, the company's chief marketing officer, said. "McDonald's is an American way of life... a world way of life."

The company has also signed a deal to be the exclusive restaurant advertiser on American television

broadcasts of the Atlanta Olympics. The Coca-Cola Co recently negotiated a similar exclusive television deal, which is reputed to have cost it \$60 million (about £38 million).

The McDonald's Olympic menu will include fresh fruit, whole-grain cereals, low-fat yogurt and a salad buffet in addition to the standard fast-food fare. There will, however, also be other food outlets for the competitors, officials said.

In an effort to modify its junk-food image, the company had five Olympic athletes present at the announcement of the move.

"An athlete like myself, when I travel, I always look for McDonald's, for something I'm used to," Jackie Joyner-Kersey, twice a winner of the heptathlon gold medal, said. "I

McDonald's, the burger chain sponsoring the Games, says its official meals will add 'variety'.

like the double cheeseburger with mustard."

Georgia Kostas, a nutritionist who serves as a consultant to McDonald's, said that there was nothing wrong with athletes indulging in an occasional hamburger. "It's not like they're going to eat ten a day," she said. "In an overall balanced diet, it's important to have variety — this is fun food they're familiar with. These kids are so nervous, so tense —

they've got to have food they can look forward to." Another nutritionist, however, urged athletes to "glide past the fried pies or the French fries".

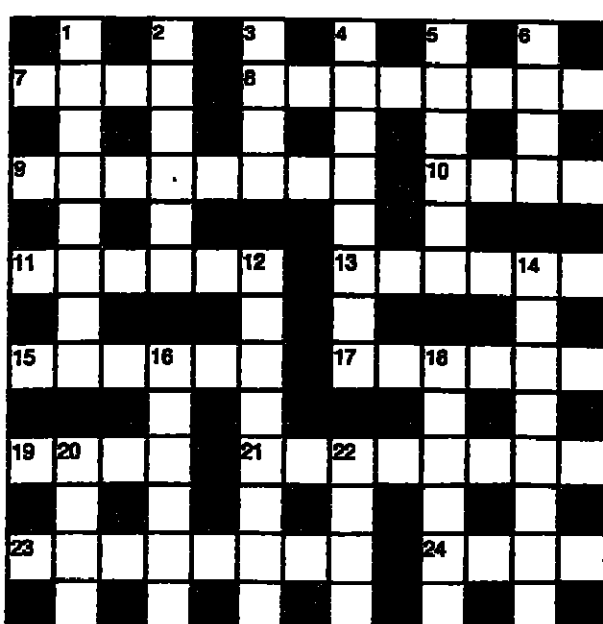
The extensive presence at the athletes' village and on television will just be part of McDonald's Olympic marketing blitz. The company plans to put its employees in Olympic uniforms and to open in-store gift shops stocked with Olympic and McDonald's merchandise. Promotional campaigns also may feature Izzy, the computer-generated mascot of the Atlanta Games, Scragge said.

□ Solomon Wariso, the international sprinter who was sent home from the European championships in Helsinki, may appeal against his

three-month suspension for taking a proscribed drug. A British Athletic Federation (BAF) tribunal upheld the ban on Wednesday and now Wariso, keen to clear his name to improve his chances of earning an Olympic place, can appeal to a new panel or even to the International Amateur Athletic Federation.

Nick Bittel, his lawyer, said that Wariso was "bitterly disappointed" at the decision, even though the ban ends on October 1, because the suspension started on July 1, the day he tested positive for a stimulant at a meeting in Gateshead.

Since BAF officials accept that Wariso made an "innocent mistake" when he took ephedrine in a medication, the BAF is not expected to object to Wariso running in Atlanta.



## TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 268

## ACROSS

- 7 The University, not the town (4)  
8 Constrictor snake (8)  
9 Enemy (8)  
10 Deceptive facade (4)  
11 Festoon (6)  
12 Most senior (6)  
15 Homily (6)  
17 Pierce with pin (6)  
19 Running battle (4)  
21 Nerve, cheek (8)  
23 Scattered Jewry (8)  
24 Ribbon worn over shoulder (4)

## DOWN

- 1 With nothing missing (8)  
2 Repeat performance (6)  
3 Ban (an MP from House) (4)  
4 Apt to put foot in it (8)  
5 Woken up (6)  
6 Norse myth poems (4)  
12 The potto or honey-bear... (8)  
14 ... most honeyed (8)  
16 Jellyfish: Gorgon (6)  
18 Turn into readies (6)  
20 Heroic poem (4)  
22 Pull: bore: type of hunt (4)

## SOLUTION TO NO 267

ACROSS: 1 Presume 5 Hemp 8 Ribbon 9 Misfit 10 Keep-sake 12 Omar 13 Two a penny 17 Pike 18 Savoyard 20 Choker 21 Gaffer 23 Crag 24 Verbose

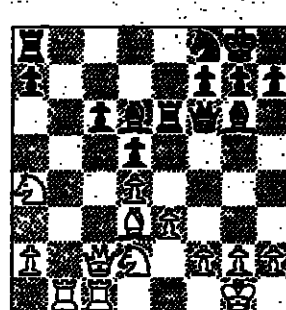
DOWN: 2 Raider 3 Sob 4 Maria 5 HMS Bounty 6 Maidan 7 Impede 11 Powder-keg 14 Absurd 15 Wither 16 Briefs 19 Vague 22 Bob

By Raymond Keene

This position is from the game Berger - Prohl, Berlin 1994. In his enthusiasm to mount an attack on the queenside, White has left his king somewhat unprotected. How did Black make him pay for this mistake?

Solution, page 36

Raymond Keene, page 6



By Philip Howard

## PANGERAN

- a. A Javanese noble  
b. A large knife  
c. Part of the continental crust

## RECKITT

- a. A muscular spasm  
b. A gunner's range-finder  
c. Bright blue

## PALAIC

- a. The Middle Stone Age  
b. An Orthodox lay reader  
c. An Anatolian language

## PROSOPON

- a. The Hellespont  
b. A tragic mask  
c. The outward appearance

Answers on page 36

## Give up smoking



MD4 is a completely natural method. NO PAINFUL INJECTIONS. NO DRUGS.

MD4 has been proven to reduce the nicotine content of cigarettes by up to 90%. It is the only product to be approved by the Medicines Division of the Department of Health, London. The price is £45.00 inc. for the complete stop smoking course. Marketing Dynamics (London) Limited, 9 Bala Rd, Haywards Heath, West Sussex RH16 1BP.

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MD4 is made in Switzerland and available only direct from the UK supplier.

The price is £45.00 inc. for the complete stop smoking course. Marketing Dynamics (London) Limited, 9 Bala Rd, Haywards Heath, West Sussex RH16 1BP.

MD4 ALLIED TO YOUR WILLPOWER, CAN HELP YOU BECOME A NON-SMOKER IN 8 WEEKS

SEND NO MONEY NOW

To Marketing Dynamics (London) Ltd, 9 Bala Rd, Haywards Heath, West Sussex RH16 1BP

Please forward ☐ postpaid of the MD4 Stop Smoking Method

I understand that I need not enclose payment of £45.00 today but I wish to keep the system after the 14 day trial period Marketing Dynamics (London) Limited will invoice me for the full price of £45.00 inclusive of VAT and p&p. I will then be able to make payment either by cheque or credit card. Should I not be convinced of the health benefits to me via the MD4 Filter System I can return the pack to you within 14 days of receipt and nothing will be owed by me.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Mr/Ms/Ms/Ms

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Day tel: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Delivery usually within seven days (max 28 days)